CITY HILIGHTS

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Sri SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Housing Department

Karnataka Housing Board
Building Communities

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

Bengaluru Urban District, Anekal Taluk
KHB Surya Sports Village, Suryanagar 4th Stage

Foundation Stone Laying

Ceremony for the Construction of the

International Cricket Stadium

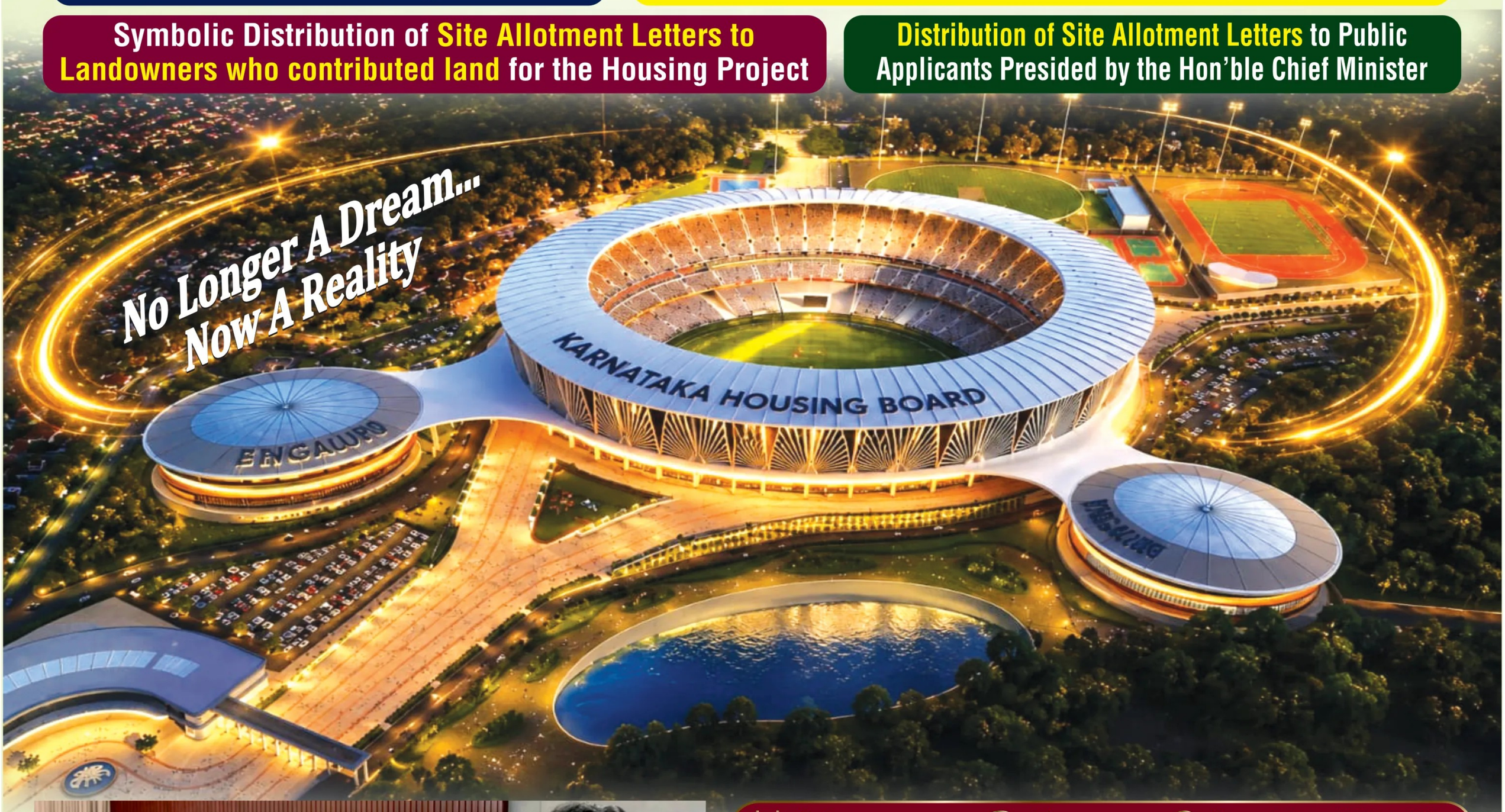
Sri D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Launch of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's "NAMMA MANE" Housing Scheme

Foundation Stone Laying for the "SURYA SHINE" and "SURYA DIVINE" Residential Township Projects

Symbolic Distribution of Site Allotment Letters to Landowners who contributed land for the Housing Project

Distribution of Site Allotment Letters to Public Applicants Presided by the Hon'ble Chief Minister



Date
Saturday
23rd May 2026

Time
11.00 am

Venue: Indlawadi Village, KHB Surya Sports Village, Suryanagar 4th Stage, Bengaluru

Inauguration of The Programme

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

In The August Presence of

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Water Resources and Bengaluru Development
Government of Karnataka

On the occasion of extending a formal invitation to Hon'ble Chief Minister **Sri Siddaramaiah** to the programme, **Sri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan,** Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Wakf and Minorities Welfare, along with **Sri K.M. Shivalingegowda,** Chairman, Karnataka Housing Board, and **Sri B. Shivanna,** MLA-Anekal Assembly Constituency jointly extending Invitation to Hon'ble Chief Minister

Distribution of Site Allotment Letters to Public Applicants
Sri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Wakf and Minorities Welfare
Government of Karnataka

Distribution of Allotment Letters to Landowners
Sri K.M. Shivalingegowda
Hon'ble Chairman
Karnataka Housing Board

Presided Over By
Sri B. Shivanna
Hon'ble MLA
Anekal Assembly Constituency

Guest of Honour
Dr. C.N. Manjunath
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
Bengaluru Rural
Lok Sabha Constituency

Honoured Presence
Sri D.K. Suresh
Hon'ble Chairman
Bengaluru Milk Union

All Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Members of Various Boards and Corporations of Karnataka are cordially invited to grace the occasion

All Are Cordially Welcome

Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, I.A.S.
Chief Secretary to Government, Karnataka Government

Sri K.P. Mohan Raj, I.A.S.
Secretary to Government, Housing Department

Sri K.A. Dayanand, I.A.S.
Commissioner, Karnataka Housing Board

along with **all Officers and Staff Members of the Karnataka Housing Board**

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

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The Truth Speaks

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Enriched uranium must remain inside Iran: Mojtaba P9

Modi's 5 nation tour secures $40B pipeline P11

Vande Mataram row returns in TN as DMK targets Vijay govt P7

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Karnataka to begin CET allotment sans NEET results

Government says students' admissions should not suffer because of ongoing NEET uncertainty nationwide

BENGALURU

Karnataka has decided to proceed with counselling and seat allotment for engineering and other professional courses without waiting for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) results amid the ongoing paper leak controversy.

Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar announced the decision during a Youth Congress protest against the alleged NEET paper leak on Thursday.

He said counselling for engineering and other non-medical professional courses will begin immediately after the Common Entrance Test (CET) results are announced, likely next week.

Until now, Karnataka conducted combined counselling for medical, engineering and allied professional courses as students generally appeared for both CET and NEET examinations. Based on their merit ranks, students selected seats across streams through a unified allotment process.

However, with uncertainty surrounding NEET following allegations of question paper leaks, the state government has decided not to delay admissions for engineering and other courses.

Sudhakar said the decision was taken in the interest of students and reiterated the Congress government's demand to restore the pre-NEET admission system where states conducted their own entrance examinations with weightage for Class 12 marks.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah alleged that NEET paper leaks had occurred multiple times since 2016 and claimed Karnataka earlier conducted one of the country's most transparent CET systems for medical admissions.

"India's youth to pay a price for Bharatiya Janata Party's incompetence."
–Siddaramaiah, CM

"Keeping students' interests in mind, we will not wait for NEET results."
–Dr MC Sudhakar, Higher Education Minister

- **Counselling starts:** After CET results next week
- **Courses covered:** Engineering and non-medical professional courses
- **Reason for separation:** NEET paper leak controversy
- **Previous system:** Combined CET and NEET counselling
- **Government demand:** Restore pre-NEET state entrance exams
- **NEET introduced:** 2016

CM demands apology over NEET paper leak controversy

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan take responsibility and apologise to students over the alleged NEET question paper leak. Addressing a Youth Congress protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, he urged the Centre to allow states to conduct their own CET-style medical entrance examinations. He said Karnataka earlier conducted fair entrance tests before NEET was introduced in 2016. Siddaramaiah alleged repeated leaks have eroded student confidence. He claimed poor and rural students are most affected due to costly coaching systems. He also demanded Pradhan's resignation.

Mekedatu DPR ready, awaiting Centre's nod: D.K. Shivakumar

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Thursday said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the ambitious Mekedatu balancing reservoir project is ready and will soon be submitted to the Central government for approval.

Addressing reporters at Kollegal and near the Madhyaranga temple, Shivakumar said the State government has already opened a dedicated office for the project and is identifying alternative land for forest areas likely to be submerged.

"Once the Centre grants approval, the foundation stone for the Mekedatu project will be laid," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that Tamil Nadu has no authority to object to the project and pointed out that the Supreme Court had directed the Central Water Commission to take a final decision.

Speaking on governance, Shivakumar said the Congress government had fulfilled its promises after completing three years in office. He highlighted the implementation of the "Bhoo Guarantee" initiative, under which beneficiaries are being provided property records with photographs of owners and assets.

He also dismissed the long-standing belief that politicians lose power after visiting Chamarajanagar, calling it mere superstition.

"Chamarajanagar is a sacred land blessed with religious and natural wealth. People visit temples here for peace and spiritual strength," he said.

Shivakumar added that the government is undertaking temple restoration works, industrial development projects and welfare measures, including jobs for families affected during the oxygen tragedy in the district.

On the GBA elections, he said the Election Commission would conduct the polls and the State government is prepared to cooperate fully.

When asked about his aspirations to become Chief Minister, Shivakumar replied briefly: "Time will decide."

- **Project:** Mekedatu balancing reservoir
- **Current Status:** DPR ready
- **Next Step:** Submission to Centre
- **Major Concern:** Forest land submergence
- **Key Issue:** Cauvery water sharing dispute

"Once the Centre gives approval, the foundation stone for the Mekedatu project will be laid."
— D.K. Shivakumar, Dy CM

Key Highlights

- Mekedatu office already operational
- Alternative land identification under way
- Temple restoration works progressing
- Government promises fulfilled, says DCM

Over 10,000 Kedarnath pilgrims rescued after massive landslip

DEHRADUN

More than 10,000 pilgrims stranded on the Kedarnath route in Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag district were safely rescued after a massive landslip triggered by heavy rainfall blocked the highway between Sonprayag and Gaurikund, officials said on Thursday.

According to authorities, the landslip occurred near Munkatiya, cutting off movement along the busy pilgrimage route and trapping thousands of devotees travelling to the Kedarnath shrine.

Continuous rainfall, falling rocks, darkness and the difficult Himalayan terrain complicated rescue efforts and created panic among stranded pilgrims.

The District Control Room in Rudraprayag alerted the State Disaster Response Force, following which rescue teams from Sonprayag rushed to the spot with emergency equipment.

Joint teams of the State Disaster Response Force and the National Disaster Response Force launched a large-scale rescue operation and safely evacuated 10,450 pilgrims from the affected stretch.

Officials said rescue personnel guided pilgrims through dangerous sections amid poor visibility and continuous rain before shifting them to designated safe locations.

After the evacuation, authorities deployed JCB machines and earthmovers to clear the debris accumulated on the highway. Normal vehicular movement was restored soon after the road was reopened.

SDRF Commandant Arpan Yaduvanshi said teams stationed along the pilgrimage route were kept on high alert in view of unstable weather conditions."The advance deployment of teams ensured quick response and effective coordination during the rescue operation," he said.

Officials added that stranded vehicles were allowed to move after the blockage was removed and road conditions improved.

WB govt makes 'Vande Mataram' mandatory in madrassas

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government has made the singing of Vande Mataram compulsory in all madrassas across the State during morning assemblies, expanding a directive issued earlier for schools.

The order, issued by the Directorate of Madrasah Education, applies to government model madrassas, aided madrassas, recognised unaided madrassas, Shishu Shiksha Kendras and Madhyamik Shiksha Kendras functioning under the Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department.

According to the notification, the national song must be sung before the commencement of classes every day.

Cabinet approves infra, health and education push

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Thursday approved a wide range of decisions spanning infrastructure, healthcare, education, land allocation, and administrative reforms, according to a briefing by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil at Vidhana Soudha.

The Cabinet discussed concerns over voter roll deletions, including reported cases affecting lakhs of voters in states such as West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. It considered legal options involving the Election Commission and the Supreme Court, with a final decision expected after further consultations within 3–5 days.

On the development front, approvals included ₹38 crore for 50-bed maternal and child health hospitals in Yadgir and Raichur districts, and ₹100 crore for a 200-bed super-specialty hospital in Karwar. The government also cleared ₹182 crore for canal modernisation under the Tungabhadra project and ₹25 crore for lake development in Mandya district.

In the education sector, ₹802 crore was sanctioned under an ADB-backed project for equipment in degree colleges and polytechnics, along with ₹15 crore for NEET, JEE and CET coaching in government PU colleges. Skill development infrastructure across 32 GTTC centres will be upgraded with ₹90 crore investment.

The Cabinet also approved leasing industrial land for a sugar factory in Mandya, setting up petrol pumps in prisons, and launching digital systems in medical colleges.

PM returns after five-nation diplomatic tour

NEW DELHI

PM Narendra Modi returned to New Delhi on Thursday after completing a five-nation diplomatic tour covering the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy between May 15 and 21. During the visit, India signed key agreements in areas such as energy security, defence cooperation, critical minerals, artificial intelligence and green technologies. Several countries also upgraded their ties with India to strategic partnership levels, reflecting growing global engagement. In Italy, Modi held talks with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, with both sides agreeing to elevate relations to a "Special Strategic Partnership" covering trade, space, nuclear energy and emerging technologies. He also met President Sergio Mattarella and received the FAO Agricola Medal.In Norway, he attended the India-Nordic Summit and was conferred the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. Earlier, agreements were signed in the UAE on energy and investment, while the Netherlands advanced cooperation in semiconductors and clean energy.

EBOLA SHADOWS SUMMIT

Ebola outbreak: Ind-Africa Summit postponed

NEW DELHI

India on Thursday postponed the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi from May 28 to 31, citing the evolving Ebola public health emergency affecting parts of Africa.

The decision, announced by the Ministry of External Affairs, came after consultations between the Government of India, the Chairperson of the African Union and the African Union Commission.

In an official statement, the Ministry said both sides agreed it would be "advisable" to convene the summit at a later date considering the emerging health situation on the African continent.

The postponement is being viewed as a temporary setback for India-Africa diplomatic engagement, as the summit was expected to revive high-level cooperation after an 11-year gap. The last India-Africa Forum Summit was held in 2015.

Officials indicated that several parallel events organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations have also been put on hold. India expressed solidarity with African nations and reiterated support for an "Africa-led" approach to tackling the Ebola crisis.

The postponement follows growing global concern after the World Health Organization declared the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern".

Earlier this week, African Union Commission spokesperson Nuur Mohamud Sheekh stressed the need for international cooperation, saying pandemics "respect no borders".

The summit was expected to strengthen diplomatic, economic, cultural and strategic ties between India and African nations.

Pulwama attack mastermind killed in PoK: Report

SRINAGAR

Hamza Burhan, an alleged mastermind behind the 2019 Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel, was reportedly shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), according to media reports.

Burhan, also known as "Doctor," reportedly sustained multiple bullet injuries after armed assailants opened fire inside an office in Muzaffarabad. Though official confirmation is awaited, sources said he succumbed to his injuries shortly after the attack.Hamza Burhan was designated a terrorist by the Indian government in 2022 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Authorities had identified him as an associate of the banned terror outfit Al-Badr.

Originally from Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir, Burhan reportedly travelled to Pakistan in 2017 on the pretext of pursuing higher education before allegedly joining terror ranks.

About the Pulwama attack

The 2019 Pulwama attack triggered massive tensions between India and Pakistan. The suicide bombing was carried out by Adil Ahmad Dar, a local Jaish-e-Mohammed recruit. Indian agencies later identified 19 accused connected to the conspiracy, with several killed or arrested during subsequent investigations.

Bengaluru airport conducts emergency preparedness exercise

BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Thursday conducted 'Challenger 2026', a large-scale emergency preparedness exercise involving over 100 stakeholder agencies and nearly 3,000 participants to test crisis response systems and inter-agency coordination.

The bi-annual drill was organised in line with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) requirements and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) guidelines. The exercise simulated a complex emergency scenario and assessed the airport's ability to respond swiftly during high-pressure situations.

According to Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the exercise evaluated emergency alert activation, firefighting and rescue operations, medical triage management, traffic control and creation of green corridors for rapid transportation of casualties to hospitals. A major highlight of this year's exercise was that it was conducted while regular airport operations continued simultaneously on the second runway, making it one of the most operationally challenging drills held at the airport.

The drill included participation from airlines, airport departments, district and state disaster management authorities, hospitals, military and paramilitary agencies, the Indian Red Cross Society and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

QUICK READ

Lawyers Seek High Court Mobile Bench in Shivamogga for Central Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A delegation of lawyers led by Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and urged the state government to establish a mobile bench of the Karnataka High Court in Shivamogga. The delegation met the Chief Minister at his home office "Krishna" and submitted a request highlighting the difficulties faced by people from Shivamogga, Davangere, Chikkamagaluru and Chitradurga districts in accessing justice. According to the lawyers, lakhs of people from the Central Karnataka region are forced to travel nearly 250 to 300 kilometres to Bengaluru for High Court-related matters, causing financial burden, inconvenience and delays in legal proceedings. They argued that Shivamogga is centrally located and meets all the required conditions laid down by the Justice Jaswant Singh Committee for establishing High Court benches.

HC Directs State to Decide on Class 1 Age Relaxation within a Week

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has directed the School Education Department to reconsider requests seeking relaxation in the minimum age limit for admission to Class 1 for the 2026-27 academic year and issue an appropriate decision within a week.

The vacation bench of Justice S R Krishnakumar passed the order while hearing petitions filed by six students, including Master Krishna Ganesh from Bengaluru, represented by their parents. The court observed that students and parents were facing difficulties due to the revised age eligibility rules and instructed the department to examine all aspects of the issue before taking a final decision.

During the hearing, counsel for the petitioners argued that the School Education Department had issued an order on March 28 fixing the minimum age criteria for Class 1 admissions. Under the revised norms, children who have not completed six years by the prescribed date would not be eligible for admission.

The petitioners contended that many children had already completed their pre-primary education during the 2025-26 academic year and were academically and socially prepared to move to Class 1. However, due to the revised rule, they may now be forced to repeat UKG, affecting nearly five lakh students across the state.

Parents argued that schools had followed a different admission system for several years, and families had enrolled children in pre-primary education based on the expectation that they would progress to first grade in 2026-27.

The petitioners sought relaxation similar to the previous academic year, allowing admission for children aged five years and five months.

Responding to the submissions, the government counsel informed the court that if granted reasonable time, the department would consider the representations seeking age relaxation and issue necessary orders.

The High Court then directed the authorities to take an appropriate decision within one week.

Textbooks to Reach Schools Before Academic Year Begins, Says KTBS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major relief for students and parents, the Karnataka government is set to ensure timely delivery of school textbooks before the beginning of the 2026-27 academic year, with over 85 percent of printing work already completed.

Officials of the Karnataka Textbook Society said the process of supplying books to schools has already begun, raising hopes that students will receive textbooks before classes commence.

Though the tender process witnessed a slight delay, authorities continued printing work without interruption. Textbooks are being printed through 22 selected printers under different packages.

According to officials, more than 75 percent of the printed textbooks have already been transported to taluk-level warehouses, and distribution to schools officially began on May 18.

The remaining 10 to 15 percent of printing work is expected to be completed within a week. The state government has sanctioned Rs 264.62 crore for the textbook programme. More than 61 lakh students studying under the state curriculum will benefit from the initiative.

Apart from government schools, free textbooks will also be distributed to students in government PU colleges and children enrolled in pre-primary classes such as LKG and UKG in government institutions from the current academic year.

Officials said the initiative is aimed at strengthening public education and improving enrolment in government schools.

The government has also collected 25 percent advance payment from unaided private schools that requested textbooks under the state curriculum. Printing and supply to these schools will be carried out based on demand, while the remaining 75 percent payment must be made before delivery.

Education department officials have directed printers to strictly adhere to timelines to avoid disruption in classroom activities at the start of the academic year.

Box Story: Strict Action for Delay

Managing Director of the Karnataka Textbook Society, M P Madegowda, said all printers have been instructed to complete printing and supply work on priority. "As per the work order, textbooks are being supplied to taluk warehouses and schools from May 18. Printing and distribution will be almost completed before schools reopen. Any delay will invite fines and legal action against printers as per rules," he warned.

Railway Officials Pulled Up Over Drainage Delays in Banaswadi

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Energy Minister K. J. George on Thursday directed Railway Department officials in the Banaswadi division to cooperate with the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials in resolving drainage issues near Banaswadi Railway Station.

The Minister inspected ongoing development works in several residential localities of his Sarvagnanagar constituency before visiting the K-RIDE project site near Banaswadi Railway Station, where drainage and infrastructure works are underway. During the inspection, civic officials complained that railway authorities were not responding to repeated requests, resulting in delays in execution of key public works.

Expressing displeasure over the lack of coordination, George sharply reprimanded railway officials and stressed the need for cooperation among departments.

"You officials receive salaries wherever you are posted. Work with humanity and respond to people's concerns. Coordinate and work together with GBA officials," the Minister said while interacting with railway authorities at the site.

George further stated that Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna is expected to visit the Sarvagnanagar constituency soon and that officials would brief him about the issue. He urged senior railway officers to intervene immediately and resolve the hurdles affecting civic works. The Minister said the government remained committed to safeguarding the livelihood and dignity of citizens and ensuring timely completion of public infrastructure projects.

Earlier in the day, George inaugurated multiple developmental works, including the groundbreaking ceremony for an auditorium dedicated to sports and cultural activities in Banaswadi. He also launched sports infrastructure development works around Kacharakanahalli Lake. The Minister later inspected the ongoing white-topping work on Hennur 80 Feet Road and instructed engineers to speed up the project. He also reviewed stormwater drain works in Nagawara Nanda Gokula Layout, Jai Bharat Nagar and Maruthi Sevanagar.

George additionally visited the residence of late Congress leader and former corporator K.B. Mohan to offer condolences to the bereaved family.

BMTC Plans Ads on Bus Tickets, QR Codes to Boost Non-Fare Revenue

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a fresh attempt to boost non-fare revenue, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation has decided to print advertisements on the back of bus tickets and introduce QR code-based promotions behind bus seats.

The move comes as BMTC looks to strengthen revenue sources amid financial pressure caused by the implementation of the government's free travel 'Shakti' scheme for women.

After fully utilising the advertising space available on buses, the corporation has now turned its attention to Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM) tickets distributed daily to lakhs of passengers across Bengaluru.

BMTC has invited global tenders for commercialising the rear side of thermal tickets issued through ETMs. According to officials, the initiative is expected to provide advertisers access to a massive audience of over 45 lakh commuters travelling in BMTC buses every day. A senior BMTC official said the corporation is also examining a proposal to install QR codes behind passenger seats inside buses.

"Passengers can scan the QR code and directly access the advertiser's portal. More such innovative measures are being explored to improve non-fare revenue," the official said.

The corporation currently uses around 72 lakh ETM thermal rolls every year, averaging nearly six lakh rolls per month. Each roll can print approximately 3,750 tickets, offering advertisers extensive visibility throughout the city. BMTC presently operates 6,959 buses through 52 depots and manages over 6,275 schedules daily, making it one of the country's largest urban public transport systems.

Officials said advertisement artwork will be supplied by the agency selected through the tender process and printed through BMTC's authorised ETM roll suppliers.

The Scheme That Gave Women The Freedom to Travel

The Shakthi Guarantee

A Lifeline for Crores of Women

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: The 'Shakthi' scheme was the first among the five Guarantee schemes announced by the Government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after assuming office in the state in 2023. Officially launched on June 11, 2023, the scheme provides free travel in government buses for women and girl students across the state. Over the past three years, this ambitious initiative has brought about a transformative change by ensuring freedom of travel to crores of women across Karnataka.

Women from lower and lower-middle-income backgrounds, including garment workers, civic workers, and daily wage earners, are now saving approximately ₹1,500 to ₹2,000 every month. These savings are being utilised for children's education, household expenses, medicines, and small savings. The scheme has enabled rural girl students to travel to towns and cities for higher education without financial burden. Following the implementation of the scheme, there has also been a significant rise in the number of women devotees visiting major temples and tourist destinations, thereby boosting religious tourism as well.

Over 726 Cr Journeys

According to government data, women passengers have availed over 726 crore free journeys under the 'Shakthi' scheme since its launch. So far, the government has issued tickets worth over ₹18,943 crore and continues to release subsidies to transport corporations on time. To manage the increasing passenger demand, thousands of new buses have been added to transport fleets. To further streamline the scheme and prevent misuse, the government is also moving towards introducing the 'Shakthi Smart Card' for women shortly.

A Model for Other States

Karnataka's 'Shakthi' scheme is not limited to free bus travel alone; by increasing women's mobility, it has instilled renewed confidence among them. The success of Karnataka's model has inspired several other states to implement similar initiatives. Telangana has introduced 'Mahalakshmi', Andhra Pradesh has launched 'Sthree Shakthi', and Kerala too has implemented a similar scheme. West Bengal has also announced a scheme and has moved towards implementation.

Statistics

₹18,943 Crore
Amount spent on the Shakthi scheme so far

Over 726 Crore
Total free tickets distributed so far

3 Years of Governance - Announcement of 'Guarantee Habba'

The State Government, which is stepping into the successful fourth year of its people-centric administration, held its three-year achievement convention successfully in Tumakuru on May 19. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced that programmes would be organised throughout the month. Accordingly, the Government has launched programmes under the banner of 'Guarantee Habba', and several campaigns will be conducted across the month.

GUARANTEE HABBA
Stepping into the 4th year

> After an accident left me unable to work, the Government's guarantee schemes became a source of support. Free travel under the Shakthi scheme helped me visit the hospital without worrying about bus fare, bringing much-needed relief to my family.
>
> ○ **Ratnamma**, Bhadravati

> Free travel under the Shakthi scheme has made it easier for me to bring essentials for my tea shop from the market. Earlier, transport costs were a burden, but now the savings have helped me run my tea shop better.
>
> ○ **Seethalakshmi**, Hosanagara

> Worried about my daughter's future, I wanted to start a small clothing business from home, but travel costs made frequent market visits difficult. With free travel under the Shakthi scheme, I can now bring materials for my business without worrying about expenses.
>
> ○ **Shafia**, Shahapur

Women's Empowerment is the Foundation of a Prosperous Karnataka

The 'Shakthi' scheme is not merely a free transport facility; it represents our Government's unwavering commitment towards the dignity, equality, and progress of every woman in the state. Over the last three years, crores of free journeys have enabled women to access education, employment, and healthcare without financial barriers. An empowered woman is the pillar of a strong family, and strong families are the foundation of a prosperous Karnataka. Our Government remains committed to such progressive and inclusive development.

• Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Independent Travel A New Dimension to Women's Empowerment

Freedom of travel plays a vital role in women's empowerment. It opens access to employment, education, and market opportunities. The Shakthi scheme has not only reduced the financial burden on families but has also doubled women's active participation in Karnataka's socio-economic progress. As our Government steps into its fourth year of governance, we once again reaffirm our commitment towards building a more equal and empowered Karnataka.

• D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Public Transport on the Path of Progress

The Shakthi scheme has transformed Karnataka's public transport system into a powerful vehicle of women's progress. Every free ticket issued in our transport corporation buses stands as a symbol of women's rights, financial savings, and self-confidence. From rural regions to metropolitan cities, women today are travelling more confidently and independently than ever before. Our department remains committed to further strengthening public transport and ensuring the continued benefits of this historic scheme.

• Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport

karnataka information

QUICK READ

Beltangady police register UDR in death case probe

Beltangady

Beltangady police have registered a UDR case after a complaint alleging medical negligence in the death of Mohammed Shareef P. His brother Nasiruddin P Bin Sufi Beary of Gerukatte filed the complaint stating the victim was injured by a bull at home. He was admitted to Surya Hospital Uppinangady and later shifted to a hospital in Mangaluru as his condition worsened. He died on May 20 despite treatment. Police registered UDR No 28/2026 under Section 194(3)(iv) of BNSS 2023 and an investigation is underway, officials said. Authorities have sought a medical team to examine allegations and report before legal action is decided case remains under review process.

Three youths arrested over Didupe waterfall harassment case

Beltangady

Beltangady police have arrested three youths for allegedly harassing three young women at Didupe waterfalls in Beltangady taluk. The accused have been identified as Abdul Khader Altaf (36), Faizal Adil (27), and Usman Saleem (18), all from Kasargod, Kerala. According to police, the incident occurred on May 20 when the women, students of a private college in Mangaluru, visited the waterfall along with the accused. During the outing, the youths allegedly behaved inappropriately and sexually harassed them. When the women resisted and raised an alarm, members of the public at the spot intervened, detained the accused, and informed the police. Beltangady police later took the three into custody, rescued the victims, registered a case, and seized the vehicle used in the incident.

Funtopia event scheduled at Kadri Park on May 24

Mangaluru

A Funtopia event will be held on May 24 at Kadri Park in Mangaluru, organized by Presidency School located in Kelarai Bondathila. The event aims to provide a recreational and entertainment platform for students and families in the city. Various fun-filled activities, games, and cultural programmes have been planned as part of the initiative. The organisers stated that the event is designed to encourage community participation and offer a lively outdoor experience for children and parents. The programme is expected to attract a large number of visitors from across Mangaluru and nearby areas.

Demand grows for High Court bench in Shivamogga

Shivamogga demands High Court bench, citing accessibility issues, growing caseload, and regional legal infrastructure needs.

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

A strong demand has been raised for the establishment of a High Court bench in Shivamogga, with the District Advocates' Association continuing its agitation over the issue. The Karnataka Working Journalists' Association's district unit also extended full support and participated in a protest held in the city.

Journalists and legal representatives jointly argued that Shivamogga, being centrally located in Karnataka, is a major hub for surrounding districts and is already home to 18 functioning courts. They emphasized that the city holds historical judicial significance, having completed over a century of its court system's presence.

Speakers including district journalists' association president U.H. Vaidyanath, general secretary R.S. Halaswamy, state committee director N. Ravikumar, vice presidents Deshadri Hosamani and T. Sathyanarayana, and journalists G.T. Satish and Dr. Balakrishna Hegde, stressed that a High Court bench should be established in Shivamogga itself.

They expressed concern over reports suggesting the possible establishment of a High Court bench in Mangaluru and indications that Shivamogga may be included under its jurisdiction. According to them, such a move would create serious hardship for litigants and lawyers from central Karnataka due to inadequate transport and connectivity to Mangaluru.

Participants argued that shifting jurisdiction to Mangaluru would force lawyers from Shivamogga to travel long distances for case hearings, making legal proceedings more difficult and expensive. They also noted that a large number of advocates from the region currently practice at the Karnataka High Court in Bengaluru and would face additional burdens if cases are moved to Mangaluru.

The speakers urged both the state government and the High Court authorities to consider establishing the bench in Shivamogga, citing accessibility, infrastructure, and regional balance. They also highlighted that the increasing number of cases in the district court further strengthens the case for a dedicated High Court bench in the city.

Several journalists and association members participated in the protest, reinforcing the demand for Shivamogga to be chosen as the location for the proposed High Court bench.

Journalists demand HC circuit bench establishment

After a protest meeting, members and office-bearers of the Working Journalists' Association visited the Deputy Commissioner's office. They submitted a memorandum through the Deputy Commissioner to the Chief Minister demanding the establishment of a High Court circuit bench in Shivamogga. They urged the government to take immediate action, stating that such a bench would improve access to justice for people in the region. Journalists said that Shivamogga, being a major central district, requires a permanent or circuit High Court bench to reduce travel burden on litigants and ensure faster hearings, and they expressed hope that the Chief Minister would respond positively to the long-pending demand from the public legal community.

Karnataka imposes 61-day mechanised fishing ban

MANGALURU

Karnataka imposes 61-day fishing ban from June 1 to July 31 to protect marine life, regulate mechanised fishing, and ensure ecological balance.

The Karnataka government has announced a 61-day annual ban on mechanised fishing activities along the state's coastline, effective from June 1 to July 31, 2026, under the Karnataka Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1986. The restriction applies to coastal districts including Dakshina Kannada and Udupi.

According to the official notification, all mechanised fishing operations using boats fitted with engines exceeding 10 horsepower (HP) will be prohibited during the ban period. This includes both mechanised boats and traditional boats equipped with inboard or outboard engines above the specified limit, regardless of the type of fishing gear used.

However, the order permits limited fishing activity using traditional country boats and motorised boats with engines up to 10 HP, strictly for navigation purposes and small-scale fishing within coastal waters. Authorities have advised fishermen using these vessels to strictly adhere to weather advisories, especially during adverse sea conditions.

The fisheries department has directed that all mechanised fishing boats must return and anchor at designated ports before May 31. Boats found entering ports after the deadline will face legal action under the provisions of the Karnataka Marine Fishing Regulation Act.

Officials have also warned that violations of the fishing ban will attract penalties, and offenders may lose eligibility for state-provided tax-free diesel benefits for up to one year. The move is aimed at ensuring compliance and protecting marine resources during the seasonal fishing ban period.

In an official statement, the joint director of the fisheries department urged fishermen across the coastal region to cooperate fully with the regulations and follow government instructions without exception.

The annual fishing ban is typically enforced during the monsoon season to allow fish breeding and to ensure long-term sustainability of marine life along the Karnataka coast. Authorities maintain that such measures are essential for ecological balance and the livelihood security of fishing communities in the long run.

Mangaluru to unveil four luxury convention halls on May 23

MANGALURU

Mangalore is set to witness a historic development in its hospitality and event infrastructure sector with the simultaneous inauguration of four state-of-the-art convention halls on May 23, 2026. Former minister and Vikas Education Trust president Krishna J. Palemar announced the details during a press conference, calling it a landmark moment in the coastal region's history.

The project has been developed by Land Links in celebration of its 45 years of service in the real estate sector. The inauguration will take place at Palemar Convention Centre in Maryhill, Mangalore, at 10 am, with Andhra Pradesh Governor J. Abdul Nazeer expected to formally inaugurate all four venues.

Several prominent leaders, including Union Minister V. Somanna, Karnataka Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader, MPs, MLAs, and other political and social dignitaries, are expected to attend the event, marking it as a major public gathering in the region.

The four venues include Palemar Convention Centre in Maryhill, Palemar Garden Morgans Gate, Palemar Farms in Surathkal, and Netravati Hall in Kadeekar, Jeppinamogaru. Each facility is designed for different types of events, ranging from weddings and corporate functions to cultural programmes and outdoor celebrations.

Officials said the venues feature modern amenities, spacious parking areas, landscaped gardens, and advanced infrastructure to support large-scale gatherings. Some locations also include outdoor swimming pools, green open spaces, and scenic natural surroundings.

Palemar stated that the project aims to provide affordable yet premium event spaces accessible to all sections of society, without discrimination based on income or background. He emphasized that the initiative supports social inclusion and regional development.

The project is also expected to generate employment opportunities for local youth in event management, catering, decoration, photography, and allied services, thereby contributing to the coastal economy.

Organisers further revealed plans for an upcoming open-air convention facility along the Mangalore coastline, expanding the city's capacity for large public events in the near future.

Public outrage grows in Shivamogga over proposed Besur nuclear plant, with protests demanding project cancellation and transparency.

Public anger erupts against Besur nuclear plant project

SAGARA

Strong public opposition has erupted in Sagara taluk of Shivamogga district against the proposed Besur nuclear power plant project, with residents, activists, and local groups intensifying their agitation. A large protest march was carried out up to the Assistant Commissioner's office in Sagara, reflecting growing resistance to the plan.

The proposed project, reportedly identified for feasibility studies by NTPC, has triggered widespread concern among villagers and environmental groups. Locals argue that the site lies in an ecologically sensitive region of the Western Ghats and could lead to environmental damage, displacement risks, and long-term ecological disruption.

As part of the agitation, hundreds of people from surrounding villages participated in a massive foot march, raising slogans against the project and demanding that the government withdraw any plans related to nuclear power development in Besur. Protesters submitted memorandums to officials, urging them to halt further survey or land acquisition activities.

Leaders of the movement stated that the Sharavathi backwater region, where Besur is located, supports biodiversity and livelihoods dependent on agriculture, fishing, and forest resources. They warned that a nuclear facility in the region could threaten both environmental balance and local livelihoods.

Public sentiment has been further fueled by concerns that the project was being considered without adequate consultation with local communities. Some reports also indicate that officials have clarified there is no formal approved proposal yet, but preliminary discussions have still sparked strong reactions.

Earlier, similar protests had already begun in Sagara, with villagers forming committees and holding meetings opposing the project.

Authorities have not yet announced any final decision, but the issue has become politically sensitive, with growing demands for transparency and public consultation before any major infrastructure or energy project is approved in the region.

SRINGERI RECOUNT CASE

Supreme Court defers Sringeri recount case hearing

SRINGERI

The Supreme Court has postponed the hearing in the Sringeri postal ballot recount case to July 23, 2026, extending the legal proceedings in a politically significant election dispute. The case pertains to allegations surrounding the recounting of postal votes in the Sringeri constituency.

According to reports, the matter involves questions raised over the validity and counting process of postal ballots during the recent election. The dispute has led to a legal challenge in the apex court, delaying a final resolution on the matter.

The court's decision to defer the hearing means the current status quo remains unchanged until the next scheduled date. As a result, the concerned elected representative continues in office while the legal proceedings are ongoing.

The case has drawn attention in Karnataka's political circles, particularly in the Chikkamagaluru district, where Sringeri constituency is located. Postal ballot-related disputes have historically played a role in closely contested elections, making this case politically sensitive.

Legal experts note that the Supreme Court's adjournment is procedural and not a judgment on the merits of the case. The final outcome will depend on detailed examination of records, arguments, and election commission documentation during future hearings.

Meanwhile, political leaders and supporters are closely watching the case as it could have implications for representation and electoral clarity in the constituency. However, no immediate changes are expected until the court delivers a final verdict.

The Supreme Court has adjourned the hearing of the Sringeri postal ballot recount case to July 23. The matter relates to the recount of postal votes in the constituency and the legal challenge surrounding the election outcome. The dispute concerns allegations over procedural irregularities in the recount process that altered the declared result. Along with the adjournment, the interim order related to T.D. Rajegowda's position as MLA has also been extended. The case continues to be closely followed as it could have a significant impact on the final outcome of the closely contested Sringeri Assembly seat.

—Sudhir Kumar Muroli, Congress spokesperson

POLICE INTERVENE AMID POLITICAL CLASH IN CHIKKAMAGALURU

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Congress party workers staged a protest and surrounded BJP leader C.T. Ravi during a road inspection visit, creating tense scenes in the area. The incident occurred while Ravi was inspecting ongoing road construction work in the region.

According to reports, Congress workers raised slogans and objected to Ravi's presence at the site, leading to a brief confrontation between the two sides. The situation escalated into a "gherao" (siege-like protest), drawing attention from locals and party supporters present in the area.

Police personnel were deployed at the spot to bring the situation under control and prevent any further escalation. Authorities intervened and ensured that the protest remained contained without major violence.

The protest reflects ongoing political tensions between the ruling Congress party and opposition BJP leaders in the Chikkamagaluru region, where local development projects often become flashpoints for political confrontation.

C.T. Ravi, a senior BJP leader and former minister, has frequently been active in Chikkamagaluru constituency, inspecting infrastructure and development works. His visits often draw responses from political rivals, especially over credit for development projects and governance issues.

Chikkamagaluru has seen multiple instances of political clashes in recent times, with both parties engaging in protests, counter-protests, and public criticism over local administration and development activities.

Despite the confrontation, officials confirmed that the road inspection work continued after the situation was brought under control. No major injuries or arrests were reported in connection with the incident.

The episode once again highlights the sharp political rivalry in the district, where development activities and public visits by leaders often become politically charged events.

QUICK READ

Chitradurga announces power cut for emergency works

CH NEWS, Chitradurga Power supply will be disrupted on May 22 from 10 am to 6 pm in several parts of Chitradurga due to emergency maintenance work on the 11 KV F-10 Zilla Panchayat line under Nagar Subdivision Unit-1. Officials said the shutdown is required for urgent line repair and safe ty works. Areas affected in clude IUDP Layout, Gandhi Nagar, Kandayagiri Nagar, Rajendra Nagar, Sadiq Nagar, Suryaputra Circle, Kanumappa Layout, Jogimatti Road cross areas, J.P. Nagar, Swami Vivekananda Nagar, Teach ers Colony, Buddha Nagar Stadium area and Prashant Nagar.

Kodagu issues monsoon power safety alert notice

CH NEWS, Madikeri With monsoon rains and strong winds beginning across Kodagu district, the Electricity Board has warn ed of possible disruptions in power supply due to weather-related damage. Officials said incidents such as broken wires and damaged poles may increase during the rainy sea son, leading to outages. The public has been strictly advised not to touch or attempt repairs on fallen power lines under any circumstances. Instead, consumers should immediate ly report any electrical faul ts or network damage by calling the toll-free number 1800-599-0061. The Executive Engineer of the Operations and Maintenance Department urged citizens to stay alert and report issues promptly.

Kushalnagar mandates strict waste segregation rules

CH NEWS, Madikeri Kushalnagar Municipality has directed all residents, businesses, and institutions to strictly follow the Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2026, which came into effect on April 1, 2026. Officials said waste must be separated into green, dry, sanitary, and special care categories before handing it over to municipal auto tipper vehicles. Large waste generators producing over 100 kg per day must treat waste on-site or register on the CPCB portal and comply with disposal rules. Failure to segregate waste will result in fines and possible disconnection of water and electricity services. Authorities urged full public cooperation for effective implementation of cleanliness measures.

Pulse Polio drive planned across district from on June 28

Vaccination drive scheduled June 28–July 1 with arrangements for manpower, transport, and power to ensure smooth district-wide execution

MADIKERI

A district wide Pulse Polio Vaccination Programme will be conducted from June 28 to ensure complete immunisation of children under five years of age District Collector S J Somashekhar has called upon all departments and organisations to work together for the successful implementation of the national health campaign.

He was speaking while chairing a preparatory meeting held at the District Collector's Office Hall on Thursday and stressed that the Pulse Polio programme is a major national initiative that requires coordinated planning and full participation from all stakeholders.

The vaccination drive will be conducted from June 28 to July 1 and officials have been instructed to make all necessary arrangements including manpower deployment transport facilities and uninterrupted power supply to ensure smooth functioning of booths across the district.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr Satish Kumar informed the meeting that the district has 32,702 children under the age of five including 3,275 in urban areas and 29,427 in rural regions He also noted that there are 19,900 migrant children who will be covered under the campaign.

He said awareness activities will begin on June 26 with rallies in schools and polio drops will be administered from 8 am on June 28 at designated booths across the district A total of 470 booths have been set up along with mobile teams and trained vaccination staff to reach households and remote areas.

The health department has deployed 1,946 vaccinators and 973 teams for house to house visits along with 85 supervisors to monitor the programme Officials said special attention will be given to urban and rural migrant populations to ensure no child is left out.The District Collector instructed various departments including education rural development women and child welfare transport and municipal bodies to actively support awareness campaigns through banners pamphlets and public announcements He also asked religious leaders and local organisations to spread awareness on the importance of vaccination.

Authorities confirmed that cooperation from Anganwadi workers self help groups and community volunteers will play a key role in achieving full coverage and ensuring that every eligible child receives polio drops during the three day district wide campaign aimed at protecting public health and preventing disease.

UEF signs MoU with Sahyadri College in Mangaluru

MANGALURU

Dr. Majo George, Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Economics and Finance (UEF), recently traveled to Mangaluru, to formalize a strategic collaboration with Sahyadri College of Engineering & Management.

The visit marked the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering cross-border innovation and talent development. Building on initial discussions held earlier in Ho Chi Minh City with Sahyadri's visionary Chairman, Dr. Manjunath Bhandary, the agreement paves the way for expanded student and faculty mobility, joint research initiatives, and shared entrepreneurship programs.

Sahyadri College stands out for its dynamic approach to engineering education, emphasizing cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and startup incubation. During his stay, Dr. George was impressed by live demonstrations of student-led innovation projects and the institution's strong industry linkages, which align closely with UEF's commitment to producing graduates ready for a competitive global economy.

Dr. George stated, "We are truly looking forward to working closely with Sahyadri College in Mangalore, India, in areas including: Student and faculty exchanges, Joint research and innovation projects, Entrepreneurship and startup ecosystems, Industry collaboration, International immersion programs, Technology and AI-driven education initiatives, and India–Vietnam higher education partnerships."

This partnership reflects a broader trend of Vietnam-India educational cooperation, enhancing bilateral ties in research, innovation, and human capital development.

Deputy Director Vijay Kumar reported 202 child marriage cases, 117 prevented early, 85 occurred, and FIRs were filed in all identified cases

Chitradurga vows strict action against child marriage

CHITRADURGA

District Commissioner T Venkatesh has warned that strict legal action will be taken against officials and individuals involved in child marriage cases in the district while presiding over a coordination committee meeting of the Women and Child Development Department held at the District Commissioner's office on Thursday.

He said that every case of child marriage must be properly tracked with clear details of investigation status, action taken and punishment given. He instructed officials to prepare an accurate report chart of all ongoing cases to ensure transparency and accountability in handling such incidents. Deputy Director of the Women and Child Development Department Vijay Kumar informed the meeting that between April and March this year a total of 202 child marriage cases were reported in the district.

Out of these 117 marriages were successfully prevented in advance through timely intervention while 85 cases where marriages had already taken place were identified and FIRs were registered in all cases.

Officials said awareness programmes are being conducted across the district in schools, colleges and rural sensitive areas to prevent child marriages. Street plays and community outreach activities are also being used to educate people about the legal consequences and social impact of child marriage.

The District Commissioner also stressed the importance of providing separate buildings for Anganwadi centres operating in rented spaces He said priority will be given to constructing own buildings under KMERC and KMERC related schemes with a total sanctioned grant of Rs 313 crore for development works in the district.

Officials informed that 324 Anganwadi centres are currently functioning in rented buildings including 172 in urban areas and 152 in rural areas. Construction of new buildings and upgradation of existing centres is already underway under different phases of government schemes.

The Commissioner further instructed officials to ensure proper implementation of nutrition programmes for mothers and children and to reduce malnutrition levels in the district, He suggested awareness drives with the Health Department and NGOs.

Deputy Commissioner warns apartments on water pollution

UDUPI

Deputy Commissioner Swaroop T K has warned that strict legal action will be taken against residential and multi-storey apartment owners if they are found discharging untreated sewage and wastewater into rivers and drains, causing serious water pollution in the district.

She issued the warning while chairing a meeting on wastewater management held at the District Collector's Office in Rajatadri, Manipal. The meeting focused on pollution control measures and proper treatment of sewage from residential complexes.

The Deputy Commissioner said a detailed survey conducted by MIT has identified several apartment complexes lacking proper waste management systems. Drone surveys have also revealed that some buildings are directly releasing wastewater into the Indrali river through drains without any scientific treatment. She expressed concern that even apartments equipped with sewage treatment plants are not operating them effectively, while some complexes do not have treatment facilities at all. She warned that such negligence is leading to severe contamination of river water and even nearby wells.

Swaroop T K instructed apartment owners to immediately ensure proper functioning of sewage treatment units and follow scientific waste disposal methods. She said treated water should be reused for gardening and other non drinking purposes to reduce environmental damage.

She added that solid waste should be managed scientifically using modern systems and emphasised that protecting the environment is the responsibility of all citizens and institutions. The Deputy Commissioner also suggested river cleaning and awareness programmes along the Indrali river from its origin to its endpoint, involving local bodies, NGOs, and construction agencies.Officials present at the meeting included senior district officers, municipal authorities, MIT representatives, and members of local organisations who discussed steps to strengthen pollution control measures in urban areas.

Krishna Hadapada deserves higher state government recognition: Ravikumar

GADAG

Karnataka State Savita Samaj director Kadur Ravikumar has urged the Karnataka government to give a higher official position to Gadag District Savita Samaj president Krishna H Hadapada for his twenty five years of social and community service.

In a press statement issued ahead of Hadapada's forty sixth birthday on May 22, Ravikumar praised his contribution towards the welfare of backward communities, workers, youth, and poor families in Gadag district. He said Hadapada played an important role in establishing the state's first Savita Maharshi Circle in Gadag through continuous efforts and public campaigns. He also helped create the Savita

Samaj Backward Classes Cooperative Society, through which loans worth nearly Rs 2.50 crore were arranged for economically weaker families.

Ravikumar said Hadapada distributed salon chairs, supported construction of free barber shops, and organised beauty parlour and vocational training programmes for women and youth. During the Covid lockdown, he reportedly distributed ration kits to more than seven hundred and fifty poor families and helped hundreds receive labour identity cards and government benefits.

He also highlighted Hadapada's long association with the Congress party and his close work with senior leaders including H K Patil and D R Patil. Ravikumar urged the Siddaramaiah government to recognise Hadapada's service and provide him suitable political representation and greater responsibility in public life.

Community members and local leaders described him as a organiser who consistently worked for education, employment, and awareness among backward communities. They said his efforts helped many families access loans, training opportunities, and government schemes.

Nataraju said political experience is needed before commenting on seniors, and questioned Nikhil's independent political achievements

Nikhil lacks political experience, says Ganakal Nataraju

RAMANAGARA

Greater Bangalore Development Authority Chairman Ganakal Nataraju has said that Nikhil has no political experience and should be careful while speaking about Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

Speaking at a press conference at the GBDA office on Thursday, he said Nikhil, who has lost elections three times, was commenting on a leader who has been active in politics for nearly 45 years. He added that Shivakumar has served as Zilla Panchayat member, MLA, minister, and Deputy Chief Minister, and therefore deserves respect for his long political career.

Nataraju said that one must first gain political experience before making remarks about senior leaders.

He also said that Nikhil's identity has largely been linked to his family background and questioned his independent achievements in politics.

He further remarked that after losing elections in Ramanagara, Channapatna, and Mandya, Nikhil has limited political experience.

He added that his political presence has been highlighted mainly due to association with former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's family.

Nataraju warned that disrespectful comments against experienced leaders like D K Shivakumar would not be accepted by the public. He said that people of the district are watching such statements and may respond strongly if such behaviour continues.

COMMUTER SAFETY CONCERNS

Activist spotlights pedestrian crisis in bustling core of M'luru

MANGALURU

In a striking display of civic enga gement, a local social media handle has compiled extensive visual evidence of deteriorating urban infrastructure and formally petitioned authorities for urgent repairs across key commercial and transit hubs in the city.

The account @KudlaInfraWatch submitted a detailed complaint letter to the Commissioner of Mangaluru City Corporation on Thursday, highligh ting widespread problems affecting daily commuters, rail-

way passengers, and market visitors. The submission draws on a series of on-ground observations and images captured in recent days, painting a concerning picture of neglect in high-traffic zones.

Central to the concerns are the footpaths around Mangalore Central Railway Station, where temporary slum-like setups with residents and their belongings have taken over sidewalks adjacent to fencing. Stacks of red construction bricks from ongoing retaining wall work lie scattered across walkways, while damaged or missing drain covers create sudden gaps in otherwise paved areas. These obstructions not only hinder movement but also pose direct tripping risks for hurried travelers exiting the station.

Further along the route toward the Regional Transport Office (RTO), the situation worsens with uneven and sunken paving stones that have inexplicably settled into the ground despite minimal vehicular pressure on those sections. Open drains run parallel to the paths, accumulating debris, while garbage piles up around roadside trees, turning green patches into informal dumping sites. The absence of sufficient public dustbins exacerbates the issue, leading to visible litter including bottles and plastic waste.

At the State Bank Bus Stand and the stretch leading to the Clock Tower, hawkers have occupied significant portions of the designated pedestrian space, forcing walkers into congested roadways shared with buses and autos. The municipal-allotted hawker zone nearby stands poorly maintained, with many stalls appearing unused or rundown, raising questions about effective space management.

Congress claims full progress on guarantee schemes

MAGADI

District Guarantee Implementation Committee Vice President Shivaprasad said the Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramai ah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has completed three years of governance and fulfilled many election promises.

He said nearly fifty to sixty percent of the announced guarantee schemes have already been implemented successfully across Karnataka. The remai ning projects will be completed within the next two years of the government' s term, he added. He said assurances were given by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Mi nister D.K. Shivakumar during a recent progress meeting that all promises will be fulfilled.

He also said that in Bengaluru South district alone, more than two thousand one hundred crore rupees have been spent on five major gua rantee schemes.

QUICK READ

Leopard captured after scaring farmers in Mandya

CH NEWS, Mandya
A leopard that had been creating fear among farmers in Chindagirikoppalu village of Srirangapatna taluk was finally captured by the Forest Department. The animal had been spotted repeatedly in nearby farmland for several days, making villagers afraid to visit their fields. Following repeated requests from residents, forest officials placed a cage in the area with a dog used as bait. The leopard entered the cage during the night while trying to catch the animal. Villagers from nearby areas gathered to see the captured leopard. Forest officials said the animal will soon be safely released into a forest region away from human settlements.

State book selection list released in Udupi

CH NEWS, Udupi
The State Level Book Selection Committee has released the list of selected books in Kannada, English, Hindi and other Indian languages for the year 2022. The selection list has been displayed on the notice board of the District Central Library at Ajjarkadu, Udupi for the information of authors, publishers and the public. Officials said the list includes works approved by the committee for library use and reference. Authors and publishers can check the details for updates. For more information, citizens may contact the Chief Librarian's Office at the District Central Library in Udupi.

Gauribidanur orders cleaning of vacant sites

CH NEWS, Chikkaballapura
The Gauribidanur Municipal Commissioner has instructed all owners of vacant sites withi n city limits to clean their properties within seven days. Officials said dumping of waste in open plots has made city cleaning difficult and led to an increase in mosquito breedi ng, affecting public heal th. Site own ers have been warned to remove garbage immediately and maintain cleanliness. If they fail to comply with in the deadline, the municipality will carry out the cleaning work and recover the cost from the owners along with revenue charges. Action will also be taken under the Municipal Corporation Act-1964.

Udupi college hosts mock airstrike rescue drill exercise

The programme jointly organised by multiple departments and organisations demonstrated disaster coordination and improved preparedness among students

UDUPI

A large scale mock disaster drill simulating an accidental airstrike was conducted at Government First Grade College and Postgraduate Studies Centre in Tenkanidiyur to train students and officials in emergency response and rescue operations under coordinated efforts of multiple departments. During the exercise scenes were staged showing students fainting after a sudden airstrike like situation while teachers and onlookers reacted in shock.

Emergency responders including fire brigade personnel, Home Guards police health staff and civil defence teams quickly moved in to rescue injured students provide first aid and shift them to hospital in ambulances, The drill also included fire fighting operations to control simulated flames at the site.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Fire Department Home Guard Police Department Coast Guard Health and Family Welfare Department Civil Defence Force Red Cross Unit Lions Club Old Students Association and college authorities, The aim was to demonstrate real time coordination during disaster situations and improve preparedness among students andofficials.

District Commissioner Swaroopa T K who witnessed the drill said that such mock exercises are essential to build awareness and readiness during real emergencies. She recalled recent fire incidents in Udupi and said that although departments controlled the situation quickly there was still significant damage. She emphasised that coordinated training helps reduce loss of life and property in future disasters.

She also noted that during real emergencies some people focus on filming incidents instead of helping rescue operations which can create obstacles for responders. She appreciated the dedication of rescue personnel who risk their lives during disasters and said mock drills help the public understand their role in supporting emergency teams effectively.

Officials demonstrated evacuation techniques rescue procedures and coordination between departments during crisis situations. Students were also made aware of safety protocols and emergency communication systems.

Senior officials including police fire service civil defence Red Cross and college representatives participated in the programme. The drill concluded with appreciation for all participating teams and stressed the importance of preparedness awareness and cooperation in handling unexpected disasters across the district in future situations with better coordination and training support overall system readiness improved significantly.

Gudali Puja held for road and drainage works in Magadi

MAGADI

Thippasandra–Kuduru Block Congress President T G Venkatesh performed Gudali Puja for the construction of a Rs 25 lakh concrete road and drainage project in the premises of Sri Shaneshwara Temple at Aneshastri Palya in the taluk.

Speaking to reporters, Venkatesh said that development works worth Rs 78 crore will be launched next month for the road stretch from Thippasandra Hand Post to Sugganahalli.

He added that an Ambedkar Residential School will be constructed on 10 acres of land near Sanskrit University at a cost of Rs 6 crore. He also said that efforts are underway to start KPSC coaching schools in Thippasandra and Sankighatta.

Magadi MLA H C Balakrishna said that special focus is being given to the overall development of the constituency and steps are being taken to make Magadi a model taluk in the state. He said that development works are being implemented along with welfare guarantee schemes.

Leaders said that the Congress government in the state is not only focused on guarantee schemes but is also investing heavily in infrastructure development.

They claimed that most promises made during elections have been implemented and governance has been people friendly over the past three years.

Former Taluk Panchayat President Shivaraju said that Sri Shaneshwara Temple in Aneshastri Palya is gaining importance and attracting more devotees. He added that regular religious events and fairs are being organised in the temple area.

Several local leaders, temple authorities, and villagers participated in the ceremony and welcomed the road and drainage development works aimed at improving facilities for devotees and residents in the surrounding area.

Madikeri officials take oath on Anti-Terrorism Day

MADIKERI

An Anti-Terrorism Day pledge ceremony was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Madikeri on Thursday in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Sahana S. Hadimani. The oath was administered by G. Shanmukh, who called on everyone to uphold peace, non-violence and harmony while rejecting terrorism and violence.

He said India's heritage is rooted in tolerance and urged citizens to work together to fight disruptive forces threatening society and human values.

Senior officials from various departments including agriculture, health, transport, social welfare, education, labour and municipal administration participated in the programme and took the oath.

They included officers from agriculture, health and family welfare, transport, ITDP, social welfare, animal husbandry, horticulture, public works, food, industries, education, employment exchange, women and child development, labour, KSRTC, disabled welfare, fisheries, minority welfare, tahsildar offices, municipal bodies and other departments across Kodagu district.

Officials said the pledge aim ed to reinforce commitment to national unity, encourage awaren ess about terrorism threats, and promote collective responsibility among government employees in maintaining peace, social harmony in the region.

Participants observed that such programmes help strengthen constitutional values and remind citizens about the importance of unity, peace, and vigilance against violence. They also said continued awaren ess activities in government offices help build a responsible administration and improve coordination among departments for better public service delivery in Kodagu district going forward across the district with continued awareness programs regularly.

Tumkur University team praises Sevashram cow protection efforts

PAVAGADA

A team from Tumkur University visited the Ramakrishna Sevashram fodder distribution centre in Pavagada and reviewed the drought relief activities being carried out for cattle affected by severe fodder shortage during the summer season.

Tumkur University Chancellor Prof M Venkateswaralu appreciated the service activities led by Swami Japananda of Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram. He praised the continuous efforts being made to provide fodder and nutritious feed to thousands of cows suffering due to drought conditions in several districts.

The Chancellor said that supplying fodder and food to more than eight thousand cows every day is a remarkable effort and an example for the entire state. He noted that the service is being carried out without government support and only through the help of donors and well wishers.

He also recalled the humanitarian work carried out earlier by Swami Japananda in disaster affected areas of Wayanad in Kerala and parts of Andhra Pradesh. According to him, the Sevashram has consistently supported people and animals during difficult situations over many years. Swami Japananda said the fodder distribution programme has been running continuously for the last twenty eight years. He explained that this year alone, assistance is being provided to thousands of cattle in distress across five districts of Karnataka. He added that farmers travelling long distances to collect fodder clearly reflects the seriousness of the drought situation.

Later, the university team visited Muttiganahatti and Ajjayyanagudihatti areas of Challakere and distributed fodder and nutritious feed to more than four hundred weak and sick cows.

Local cattle owners appreciated the initiative and said the timely support from the Sevashram had helped save the lives of many cows in drought affected villages across the region successfully.

Udupi invites applications for small business subsidy

UDUPI

Udupi Municipal Corporation has invited applications from eligible beneficiaries for assistance to small businesses under the 5% SFC Disabled Welfare Program for the year 2025-26.

The last date for submitting the prescribed application along with supporting documents is May 28. Interested applicants can obtain the application form and more information from the Municipal Commissioner office, Udupi.

Officials said eligible candidates should apply before the deadline without delay.

Officials promote government schools through enrollment campaign

HUNSUR

Field Education Officer Kalanayaka launched an enrollment awareness campaign at Chikka Hunsur Government School in Hunsur city and appealed to parents to support government schools for quality education. Along with teachers, SDMC members, students and education department staff, he participated in a walk across nearby areas to encourage admissions for the new academic year.

Speaking to reporters, Kalanayaka said the department aims to increase student enrollment by thirty percent this year. Dur ing the campaign, officials and teachers visited homes and distributed pamphlets explaining the benefits available in government schools. Parents were informed that students receive free textbooks, uniforms, shoes, nutritious midday meals, computer education, smart classes and English learning opportunities.Students carrying placards and playing musical bands marched through the locality spreading awareness about the importance of education and enrollment in nearby government schools. Teachers and SDMC members led the procession and interacted with families during the programme. BRC Hemalatha, ECO Rudrappa, Kesavamurthy, Sunil Kumar, BRP Anand, CRP Anil, senior head teachers H.K. Suresh and Shivanna, along with head teachers Mahesh Chilkunda, Kariappa, Dr. Sahithi, Maduprasadja, Jayaramegowda and several teachers attended the campaign programme organized in Hunsur on Wednesday morning.

Justice Veerappa warns against rising corruption in Karnataka

MANDYA

Upalokayukta Justice B Veerappa expressed serious concern over rising corruption in Karnataka and warned that the situation could become dangerous if immediate corrective measures are not taken by officials and citizens. Speaking during a hearing and disposal programme for pending cases in Mandya and Malavalli taluks at Dr B R Ambedkar Bhavan, he said corruption had spread across many departments and Karnataka currently ranks fifth in corruption related complaints.

Justice Veerappa said he was visiting Mandya district for the second time within one year to review pending administrative cases and public grievances. He stated that district authorities had failed to completely dispose of several complaints and stressed that promises alone would not solve public problems. Officials must perform their duties honestly, responsibly and without causing injustice to common people, he added.

He reminded officers that Dr B R Ambedkar had given India a strong Constitution based on equality, justice and accountability. Every citizen and government employee should follow constitutional values sincerely and work for public welfare, he said. He also pointed out that India ranks ninety first among one hundred forty countries in corruption levels and warned that corruption weakens development, public trust and administrative efficiency.

Justice Veerappa further revealed that authorities had identified one thousand two hundred eighty one illegal cases across sixteen districts in Karnataka. He urged officials to serve people with honesty and warned that strict action would be taken against those misusing authority or encouraging corruption.

District Magistrate Dr Kumar praised Justice Veerappa for his dedication to justice and public service. Senior judicial officers, police officials, lawyers and representatives from the Legal Services Authority attended the programme in Mandya.

During the meeting, he advised officers to act with compassion while handling public complaints. He said corruption free administration was necessary for protecting democracy and ensuring equal opportunities for poor families. He also directed departments to speed up disposal of pending files and maintain transparency in administration. Participants said the programme created awareness about accountability, honesty and responsible governance among officials and citizens.

KPCC spokesperson M. Laxman alleged targeting of SCs, Muslims, Christians in voter revision, urged vigilance and transparency process

Congress leaders raise voter deletion allegations

HUNSUR

Former MLA H.P. Manjunath alleged that the Central Government and Election Com mission were systematically removing names of voters from electoral rolls in Mysuru district, including nearly 23,000 voters in Hunsur taluk. Speaking at a meeting of Congress booth-level agents at the party office in Hunsur, he ur ged workers to carefully verify voter documents and identify missing names immediately.

KPCC spokesperson M. Lax man claimed that Scheduled Castes, Muslims, and Christia ns were being targeted during the voter list revision process. He said Congress workers must remain alert and ensure eligible voters are not removed from the rolls. Laxman also questioned the district administration over additional document requirements during the verification process and demanded that updated voter lists be released without delay. Duri ng the meeting, Manjunath said party workers should actively help residents complete documentation and protect their voting rights. He also criticised the Central Government over rising prices of essential commodities and declining tobacco prices, alleging that local BJP leaders failed to support farmers despite making public promises.

Dr Pooja leads national dengue awareness campaign

CHITRADURGA

A National Dengue Day pro gram was held at Ballalsam udra Primary Heal th Center and Gram Panchayat Mini Soudha in Hosadurga taluk. Medical Officer Dr Pooja gave detailed information to the public about dengue sy mptoms and prevention measures. She said communi ty participation is important and everyone should follow check clean and cover method.

MLA Balakrishna boosts minority school development in Magadi

MAGADI

MLA H.C. Balakrishna's emphasis on minority school development has improved education in Magadi, said BMRDA Director Chandrashekhar. He spoke after performing a puja for the construction of a new building on the site of a dilapidated government Urdu school in old Mohalla. The old school building was very weak and unsafe, affecting students' learning. MLA Balakrishna immediately visited the place, inspected it, and approved funds for a new well-equipped building. Work on the new school started today with support from local leaders and officials. He said the building will be completed within the scheduled time. Residents said they faced problems like water, drainage, roads, and streetlights in the ward. These issues were gradually resolved after intervention by the MLA, improving living conditions. The new school will provide a safe and better learning environment for minority students. Local residents thanked the MLA and officials for supporting education development in the area.

Kerala Assembly Celebrates New MLAs' Oath

The Assembly witnessed an unusual and vibrant atmosphere on Thursday as 139 newly -lected lawmakers of the 16th Assembly took oath amid scenes rarely seen in the state's political history

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The oath-taking ceremony created what many described as a true festival of democracy, with the Assembly premises shedding its usual image of exclusivity and political formality.

Unlike routine Assembly sessions that involve heavy security arrangements and tightly controlled entry procedures, Thursday's event was marked by openness and accessibility.

Visitors entered the Assembly complex without facing long security checks, aggressive frisking, or repeated demands for entry passes. The relaxed atmosphere gave the venue the feel of a public celebration rather than a strictly constitutional event. The only area that remained restricted was the direct entrance leading to the Assembly floor where the lawmakers formally took oath.

Across the corridors, there was an air of excitement and political enthusiasm. Party workers, supporters, journalists, and curious citizens gathered in large numbers, engaging in lively discussions, taking selfies, greeting political

leaders, and observing the changing political landscape of the state. The usually quiet and disciplined Assembly corridors were instead filled with noise, movement, and celebration.

Even the Assembly coffee shop, which is traditionally reserved for legislators and accredited journalists, was opened to everyone attending the event. The canteen quickly became one of the busiest areas in the complex as crowds gathered for tea, snacks, and political conversations.

It's bumper business today, a smiling canteen employee said while trying to manage the unusually large crowd. Visitors spent hours discussing election results, cabinet possibilities, and the future direction of Kerala politics.

The changing political equations inside the Assembly were also reflected in the mood of political leaders present at the venue. State BJP General Secretary S. Suresh appeared optimistic and cheerful as his party secured representation in the Assembly with three legislators.

Now we will be seen here more often, Suresh remarked confidently while interacting with journalists and supporters. He added that the BJP intended to play a stronger role in Assembly debates and political discussions in the coming years.

Another notable presence at the Assembly complex was former minister K. P. Mohanan, who was seen carrying a press pass for the newspaper he owns. Mohanan, who had served in the outgoing Assembly, said he had stepped away from electoral politics and returned to journalism.

I have now returned to my profession, he said with a smile, explaining that he had decided not to contest the election and had instead passed the opportunity to his nephew, who successfully won the seat.

As the swearing-in ceremony continued throughout the day, the Kerala Assembly presented a rare picture of politics without barriers, where elected representatives and ordinary citizens shared the same space in an atmosphere of openness and democratic celebration.

QUICK READ

Father, kin held in 'honour' killing of 16-yr-old girl

Lucknow

In a horrifying suspected honour killing case, the Government Railway Police (GRP) have arrested three people, including the father of a 16-year-old girl, whose mutilated body was found stuffed inside a box in the S1 coach of the Chhapra-Gomti Nagar Express at Gomti Nagar Railway Station in Lucknow. The accused have been identified as the victim's father Viggan Ansari (44), her aunt Noorjahan (55), and her uncle Mojibulla Ansari (65). All three were arrested from Kushinagar district following an extensive investigation by the police. The gruesome incident came to light on May 17 when railway staff noticed an unclaimed box lying underneath a seat inside the sleeper coach of the train stationed at Gomti Nagar Railway Station.

Pulwama plotter Hamza Burhan shot dead

New Delhi

Hamza Burhan, one of the key planners behind the Pulwama attack, was killed by unknown gunmen in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The incident took place at Muzaffarabad in PoK, and Burhan is said to have been shot multiple times. He was attacked and killed by unknown assailants and is said to have died instantly due to multiple gunshots. While designating him as a terrorist in 2022, the Indian government had said, Arjumand Gulzar Dar alias Hamza Burhan alias Doctor, aged 23 years, is a resident of Kharbatpora, Ratnipora, Pulwama, and one of the associate members of Al Badr, a terrorist outfit designated under the UAPA. Hamza, also known as Doctor, was born in the Ratnipora area of Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir. He had left for Pakistan in 2017, stating that he was pursuing his higher studies.

Bengal govt launches crackdown on illegal migrants

NEW DELHI

The decision by the government led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has triggered fresh discussions among security planners and intelligence officials regarding the growing challenges posed by illegal immigration in several parts of the country.

Senior officials said the state's Director General of Police and Chief Secretary have been instructed to ensure strict implementation of the new protocol.

According to officials, illegal immigration has remained one of the most sensitive issues affecting West Bengal for decades. Security agencies claim that the problem began intensifying during the 1970s and later expanded beyond West Bengal into northeastern states, especially Assam.

Officials now warn that the issue has spread to several other regions of India, including Bihar and parts of South India.

Security officials allege that illegal immigration networks gradually evolved into organised systems linked to criminal activities such as fake currency circulation, narcotics trafficking, and cattle smuggling. In certain border districts of West Bengal and Assam, authorities claim that criminal syndicates associated with illegal migration have become deeply entrenched over the years.

Illegal immigration has remained one of the most sensitive issues affecting West Bengal for decades'

An Intelligence Bureau official stated that illegal immigrants were often provided with forged identity documents, including voter identification cards and Aadhaar cards, through organised networks operated by touts and middlemen. Officials allege that these documents enabled migrants to settle in different parts of the country and sometimes become part of political vote-bank strategies.

According to security officials, tackling the issue requires both internal enforcement and stronger border infrastructure.

The newly announced detect, detain and deport framework is being viewed as the first phase of a broader strategy to identify undocumented migrants and prevent further illegal crossings into India.

A major focus has also been placed on strengthening fencing along the India-Bangladesh border. India and Bangladesh share a border stretching approximately 2,200 kilometres, of which around 1,600 kilometres has already been fenced, according to officials.

Authorities have now announced the immediate transfer of 75 acres of land covering nearly 27 kilometres of border areas to accelerate construction work.

Tejashwi blasts Bihar govt over police action on TRE-4 protesters

PATNA

Bihar Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav on Thursday launched a strong attack on the NDA government led by Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary over police action against candidates protesting for the release of vacancies under the TRE-4 teacher recruitment process.

In a post shared on social media, Tejashwi Yadav questioned the government's handling of demonstrations by teacher recruitment aspirants, saying students and unemployed youth were only demanding that the government fulfil its promises regarding employment and conduct the TRE-4 examination.

The former Deputy Chief Minister said it was unfair to treat job seekers like criminals for raising concerns over delayed recruitment and repeated paper leak incidents in examinations. He criticised the use of police force against protesting candidates and alleged that lathi-charges on students had become a repeated pattern under the current administration.

How can demanding TRE-4 recruitment become a crime? How can protesting against paper leaks be considered an offense? Yadav asked while attacking the government's approach toward the issue.

He further stated that if the state government truly wanted to use police machinery effectively, it should focus on controlling crime and corruption rather than targeting unemployed youth demanding jobs. According to him, the government appeared more interested in suppressing protests than addressing the concerns of candidates waiting for recruitment opportunities.

Tejashwi Yadav also alleged that the NDA government had no serious intention of moving forward with the TRE-4 recruitment process. He claimed that despite repeated demands from students and aspirants, the government had failed to issue an official notification for the recruitment drive.

Referring to the earlier Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar, Yadav said that during its 17-month tenure, over 200,000 teachers were recruited successfully through the TRE-1 and TRE-2 processes without any incidents of question paper leaks. He added that the previous government had also initiated recruitment for another 130,000 teaching posts before political developments changed the state government.

The RJD leader pointed out that Bihar had witnessed several political changes in recent months, including reshuffles involving the chief minister, deputy chief ministers, and cabinet ministers, yet no progress had been made regarding TRE-4 recruitment.

Yadav also criticised ministers in the current government, accusing them of focusing more on publicity campaigns and creating social media content rather than solving the problems faced by unemployed youth across the state.

AI Delhi-B'luru flight suffers tail strike while landing

NEW DELHI

An Air India flight from Delhi to Bengaluru suffered a tail strike while landing at Bengaluru International Airport, the airline said on Thursday. The Air India flight AI2651, with 179 people on board, was grounded after it experienced a tail strike during landing at the Bengaluru airport.

The airline said the aircraft landed safely and all passengers and crew members disembarked normally. Following the incident, the aircraft has been grounded for a detailed inspection.

Air India added that the matter will be investigated in line with established procedures. Due to the grounding of the aircraft, the return flight AI2652 from Bengaluru to Delhi was cancelled. The airline said alternative arrangements are being made to accommodate affected passengers at the earliest.

Rajasthan CM visits tribal village, reviews development needs

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Thursday visited the remote tribal village of Chuda in Banswara district as part of the state government's Gram Vikas Chaupal initiative.

After conducting a night Chaupal in the village, the Chief Minister returned again early Thursday morning and walked through village lanes to interact personally with local residents. The visit was aimed at understanding public concerns firsthand and evaluating the implementation of development schemes at the grassroots level.

Speaking to villagers during the interaction, Bhajanlal Sharma said the state government was working in line with the vision of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's concept of Antyodaya, which focuses on ensuring that the benefits of governance and welfare schemes reach the poorest and most marginalised sections of society.

The government's first priority is development reaching the last mile, Sharma said while addressing residents. He added that the Gram Vikas Chaupal programme had become an effective platform for resolving local issues through direct dialogue between citizens and the administration.

The Chief Minister later held a Chaupal meeting under a peepal tree where villagers highlighted concerns related to drinking water, irrigation facilities, infrastructure development, and other civic needs. Responding immediately to the demands, Sharma instructed the district administration to construct an anicut on the Hiran River to improve irrigation and strengthen water availability for both agriculture and drinking purposes in the region.

During the visit, the Chief Minister also stopped at a Maa Bari Centre, where he interacted warmly with children and distributed chocolates among them. He encouraged students to continue their education and urged villagers to ensure that young people stay away from drug addiction and other harmful activities.

The visit also witnessed administrative action on allegations of financial irregularities. Employees reportedly complained to the Chief Minister regarding alleged financial misconduct involving Kushalgarh Block Chief Medical Officer Dr Girish Bhabhor. Taking serious note of the matter, Sharma directed officials to initiate immediate action. Following his instructions, the Medical Department placed Dr Bhabhor on Awaiting Posting Order status pending further proceedings.

Addressing farmers during the programme, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of water conservation and sustainable agricultural practices.

Vande Mataram row returns in TN as DMK targets Vijay govt

CHENNAI

A fresh political controversy that erupted in Tamil Nadu on Thursday after the recitation of songs during the swearing-in ceremony of 23 newly inducted ministers in Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's Cabinet reignited the debate over the place of Vande Mataram and the Tamil invocation song (Tamil Thai Vazhthu) at official state events.

The issue resurfaced after Vande Mataram was played before the Tamil invocation during the oath-taking ceremony, drawing criticism from the opposition DMK, which accused the government of undermining Tamil traditions and adopting what it described as BJP-style politics in the state.

In a strongly worded post on social media platform X, the DMK IT wing questioned the Vijay government for departing from Tamil Nadu's long-standing convention of beginning official functions with Tamil Thai Vazhthu and concluding them with the national anthem.

The party recalled earlier assurances that the previous protocol would be restored and accused the government of failing to uphold that commitment.

Do not attempt to practise BJP politics in Tamil Nadu, the post said, alleging that Tamil traditions were being sidelined.

DMK spokesperson T.K.S. Elangovan alleged that the state government lacked control over the situation and suggested that the administration was functioning under pressure from Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

They have no control. They are under pressure from the Governor, who is a BJP man. They are disrespecting Tamil and established practices in Tamil Nadu, Elangovan said.

Senior DMK leader R.S. Bharathi also criticised the move, claiming the government was disregarding Tamil identity and traditions.

Referring to the state's long-standing resistance to Hindi imposition and the anti-Hindi agitations that shaped Tamil Nadu politics, Bharathi said the state had consistently protected its linguistic identity for decades.

The controversy is similar to the one that surfaced during Vijay's own swearing-in ceremony on May 10, when Tamil Thai Vazhthu was played after Vande Mataram and the national anthem.

PEOPLE-FRIENDLY STEP

Telangana enhances minimum wages for workers

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to enhance minimum wages for workers across the state.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Thursday that the decision has been taken on the recommendation of a Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka.

For the unskilled category of workers, the government has increased the minimum wages from Rs 12,750 to Rs 16,000. For the semi-skilled category, the minimum wages have been revised from Rs 13,152 to Rs 17,000.

The Chief Minister told the media that for the skilled workers, the minimum wages have been increased from Rs 13,772 to Rs 18,500, while for the highly skilled category, the government has decided to raise the wages from Rs 14,607 to Rs 20,000.

This decision by the state government will come into effect starting June 1 and benefit 1.11 crore workers, he said while congratulating them.

He alleged that due to the negligence of the previous government, the workers suffered losses.

CM Revanth Reddy said the government has created three geographical zones. We have determined the minimum wage structure by designating Municipal Corporations as Zone 1, Municipalities as Zone 2, and Rural Areas as Zone 3, he said.

The Chief Minister claimed that for the first time since the formation of the state, a decision has been taken specifically for the welfare of workers. The previous government neglected its responsibilities in this regard, he said. He stated that the Congress government acted responsibly and took a decision that serves the best interests of the workers.

Revanth Reddy advised the youth to come out of the mindset that focuses solely on careers in Information Technology or migrating to the United States.

Education that fails to yield jobs or provide employment opportunities is futile. Possessing technical skills opens up a multitude of opportunities in various other countries, such as Germany, Japan, and Singapore, he said.

That is precisely why the state government has established Skills University to encourage and empower the youth. The youth should direct their focus and efforts in this direction, he added.

Tripura CM asks cops to focus on cybercrime, crimes against women

Saha stressed that policing methods must evolve with changing times and increasing technological threats

AGARTHALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Thursday urged the state police force to strengthen efforts against cybercrime and crimes targeting women and children while emphasising the importance of technology-driven and people-friendly policing.

Speaking at the ceremony held at the KTD Singh Police Training Academy in Narsingarh on the outskirts of Agartala, the Chief Minister said police personnel must perform their duties with honesty, dedication, sincerity, and compassion toward the public.

The passing-out parade marked the completion of training for the 91st and 92nd batches of recruit constables, comprising 476 personnel, including 318 women constables. Manik Saha, who also holds the Home portfolio in the state government, said the recruits underwent nearly 11 months of rigorous training in various aspects of policing and public safety.

According to the Chief Minister, the recruits received specialised instruction in traffic management, crowd control, disaster response, handling mob violence, controlling illegal activities, and maintaining law and order in difficult situations. He noted that the training programme was designed to prepare police personnel for both traditional policing responsibilities and modern security challenges.

Saha stressed that policing methods must evolve with

changing times and increasing technological threats. He observed that modern law enforcement agencies cannot function effectively without advanced technology and digital capabilities. Referring specifically to cybercrime, the Chief Minister said police officers must continuously adapt to new forms of criminal activity emerging in the digital space.

He further stated that protecting women and children would remain one of the highest priorities for both the government and the police administration. According to him, law enforcement agencies must respond sensitively and effectively to crimes involving vulnerable groups while maintaining public confidence in the justice system.

The Chief Minister also reiterated the state government's commitment to modernising the Tripura Police force. He assured officials and recruits that the government would continue to provide all necessary support for strengthening police infrastructure, improving training standards, and enhancing operational capabilities.

During the event, Saha announced that the recruitment process for 218 Sub-Inspectors in the Tripura Police would begin shortly. In addition, he said the government had already approved the recruitment of 916 more police constables and that the process for these appointments would commence soon.

Referring to previous recruitment efforts, the Chief Minister recalled that appointment letters for 975 constable posts had been distributed to youths on May 13 last year. Of those recruits, 476 have now successfully completed their training at the academy.

The ceremony concluded with the newly trained constables taking part in the formal passing-out parade, marking the beginning of their service in the Tripura Police force.

Reddy demands special Parliament session on women's reservation

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday urged the Central government to convene an immediate special session of Parliament to implement 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies.

Paying tribute to Rajiv Gandhi, Revanth Reddy described the former Prime Minister as a visionary leader who played a major role in modernising India and empowering women politically. He said Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation for women's participation in governance by introducing reservation for women in local bodies, which transformed grassroots politics across the country.

The Chief Minister criticised the Union government for linking the implementation of women's reservation in Parliament and state legislatures to the delimitation of constituencies. According to him, this linkage was creating unnecessary hurdles in implementing the long-pending demand for greater representation of women in legislative institutions.

Revanth Reddy said the issue of women's reservation should not be politicised and urged the Centre to move forward with immediate implementation. He maintained that women's political empowerment was essential for strengthening democracy and ensuring balanced representation in decision-making bodies.

"The INDIA bloc is ready to support the women's reservation bill in Parliament," the Chief Minister said, while demanding that the Centre convene a special session without delay to address the matter.

Recalling Rajiv Gandhi's contributions to the nation, Revanth Reddy said the former Prime Minister introduced information technology to India and played a crucial role in placing the country on the global technological map. He credited Rajiv Gandhi with initiating reforms and liberalised policies that helped accelerate India's development and modernisation.

"It was Rajiv Gandhi who ushered in the era of technology in the country and steered India onto the path of development," he said during the commemorative event.

The Telangana Chief Minister also stated that the Congress government in the state was working according to the ideals and vision of Rajiv Gandhi, particularly in areas related to women's welfare and empowerment. He claimed that the "People's Government" in Telangana was committed to inclusive development and social justice.

'Centre committed to strengthening childhood cancer care, survival'

NEW DELHI

Speaking at the workshop, L. Swasticharan, Deputy Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services under the Union Health Ministry, said the government aims to "break the barrier" in childhood cancer treatment so that all affected children receive timely diagnosis, proper medical care, and adequate financial support.

Swasticharan described childhood cancer as a major priority area within healthcare programmes and referred to it as a "low hanging fruit" in terms of improving patient survival through focused government intervention. According to him, the existing Non-Communicable Diseases programme already includes a cancer component, which can be further strengthened to address childhood cancers more effectively.

"The priority is that a childhood cancer patient should be detected early and ensuring financial support and medical care," he said while addressing healthcare professionals, policymakers, and representatives from international organisations.

He also highlighted the importance of learning from successful healthcare models developed in states such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu. According to Swasticharan, these states have effectively involved self-help groups and developed financial support mechanisms linked to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to improve access to healthcare services.

The senior official further stressed that healthcare support for cancer patients should continue even after successful treatment. He said survivorship care, rehabilitation, and community support systems must become an integral part of the healthcare response to childhood cancer.

"All our heroic acts of curing a patient should continue and not end with survival," he said, emphasising the need for long-term support systems involving communities and multiple stakeholders.

Swasticharan also underlined the importance of early detection and maintaining accurate data related to childhood cancer cases. He said discussions are ongoing with the Indian Council of Medical Research regarding the creation of a national registry and the possibility of declaring childhood cancer a notifiable disease.

"The aim is not to miss any patient," he said while explaining the need for systematic data collection and reporting.

During the workshop, Bishnu Giri, Technical Officer for Cancer Control at the World Health Organization, said investment in childhood cancer treatment should be viewed as socially and economically beneficial rather than expensive.

According to him, studies show that every dollar spent on childhood cancer care can generate multiple times the value in long-term economic and social gains, particularly in developing countries. He also called for sustainable financing models and flexible funding systems to strengthen cancer care infrastructure.

Railways expands use of AI, drones to strengthen security

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said that Indian Railways is intensifying the use of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, drones, and CCTV surveillance systems.

The meeting was attended by senior Railway Ministry officials along with field officers from different parts of the country. Discussions focused on enhancing security mechanisms across the railway system and improving coordination between various agencies responsible for maintaining safety on railway premises.

According to the minister, Indian Railways is implementing technology-driven security measures in mission mode, while simultaneously strengthening intelligence gathering at the grassroots level through the Railway Protection Force. He said the use of modern surveillance and monitoring systems would help authorities detect suspicious activities more efficiently and respond more quickly to security threats.

One of the major areas of discussion during the meeting was the need to improve coordination between the Railway Protection Force and the Government Railway Police. Officials stressed the importance of better information-sharing systems to ensure effective monitoring and rapid response across railway zones.

During the review, officials noted that preliminary investigations into several recent incidents, including some fire-related cases, had indicated the possible involvement of anti-social elements. Indian Railways has taken these incidents seriously, and the Railway Protection Force is currently conducting detailed investigations into the matter.

An official statement released after the meeting said that in several instances, timely intervention and proactive measures taken by railway authorities had helped prevent potentially serious situations from escalating further.

The ministry also discussed ways to encourage greater public participation in maintaining security across railway premises. Officials said passengers can play an important role in identifying suspicious behaviour or activities during travel and while waiting at stations.

Passengers were urged to remain alert and immediately report any suspicious person, unattended object, or unusual activity through the Railway helpline number 139. Authorities believe that increased public vigilance, combined with modern technology and intelligence systems, can significantly improve railway security.

The meeting further emphasised the expansion of CCTV surveillance across railway stations and railway property throughout the country. Officials also discussed upgrading the technical specifications of cameras to improve monitoring quality and enhance real-time analysis capabilities. A major focus was placed on strengthening cyber security systems within Indian Railways, especially as the organisation increasingly relies on digital infrastructure and technology-based operations.

GREATER BENGALURU DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (GBDA)
Kandaya Bhavana, 3rd Floor, Ramanagara,
Bengaluru South District. Ph.No.: 7259198192.
No: GBDA/Outsource Manpower/02/2025-26 Date: 21-05-2026
TENDR NOTIFICATION
"Re-e-tender for providing outsource manpower services to the office of Greater Bengaluru Development Authority, Ramanagara has been published in e-Procurement Portal of GOK. For details visit **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**" (Auction Notice No. GBDA/2025-26/SE0007/CALL-2).
Sd/- Deputy Commissioner (LA)
Greater Bengaluru Development Authority
Ramanagara.
DIPR/CP/762/Adverto/2026-27

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD, Tumkur Division, Tumkur. Phone : 0816-2272479.
No. : E.E./K.P.W.D./Tmk/J.E.-3/T.No 14/2026-27 Date : 20-05-2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(KW-3 & KW-4) E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tenders are invited in **Two Cover System for Class-3 & above** Contractors registered inPWD for **02 Work** under 5054 KRDCL Bridge. **Head of Account in the jurisdiction of Tumkur Division** through KPPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Dates are Published as below.
Maximum Amount Put to Tender Rs. 195.63 Lakhs and Minimum Amount Put to Tender Rs. 93.13 Lakhs Maximum EMD Amount Rs. 2,93,452/- and Minimum EMD Amount Rs. 1,86,261/-. 1) Last Date for Tender Information Enquires : 21-05-2026 @ 17.00, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 29-05-2026 @ 16.00, 3) Date of Opening the Technical Bid : 30-05-2026 @ 16.30, 4) Date of Opening the Financial Bid : 01-06-2026 @ 17.00.
Note : Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered. Here after any changes with reference to this Notified in E-Portal only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Division, Tumkur.
DIPR/Tumakuru/10/Manipal/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2026-27/1000 DATE: 20/05/2026
E-Tender Notification
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 34 works under head of account 4059-Construction of Department buildings. Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 14.40 and maximum of Rs. 57.60 Lakhs.
Calendar of events: 1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 06-05-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 08-05-2026 up to 5.00 PM,3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 10-06-2026 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids",5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.
For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-288/KSMCA/2026-27

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಪಿ.ಎಂ. ಪೋಷಣ್, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ
ನಂ.ಅದಾ/ಆ.ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16/05/2026
ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಪೋಷಣ್(ಮ.ಉ.ಯೋ) ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಾರವಾರ, ಅಂಕೋಲಾ, ಕುಮಟಾ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ, ಸಿರ್ಸಿ, ಸಿದ್ದಾಪುರ, ಭಟ್ಕಳ, ಜೊಯ್ಡಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಂಡಗೋಡ ಹೀಗೆ 11 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯಾ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಸಗಟು ಮಳಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಂದ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಡುಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಾದ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಪಾಮೆಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ್ಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜನ್ನು 24–06–2026 ರ ಸಾಯಾಂಕಾಲ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಅಪಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
(1) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–05–2026 ರಿಂದ 24–06–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (2) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾದ ಒಟ್ಟೂ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.80 ಲಕ್ಷ (3) ಟೆಂಡರ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–06–2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ 29–06–2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–07–2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ.
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/149/26-27 Dt.21.05.2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1,2:Tender-09:2026-27 Dated:- 20.05.2026
SHORTTERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.
Name of work Two cover System:- Head of Account 5054-03-337-0-17-154 SH Improvements :- (1) Widening of Rampura By-pass Road (Old National Highway 150(A)) in Rampura Village limit Which is Handed Over to Public Work Departement in Molakalmuru Constituency, Molakalmuru Taluk (Working ch km 293.480 to 294.100) (W.I.35139)/call-2
Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-200.00
Head of Account 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintenance:- (2) IMPROVEMENTS AND ASPHALTING OF ROAD FROM KALKERE CONNECTING MALLENAHALLI CROSS VIA BALLALASAMUDRA, ALAGHATTA,MALLENAHALLI LINK FROM ALAGHATTA CONNECTING VADDARAHATTI CH 0.00 TO 2.55 KM (KADUR TALUK BORDER) IN HOSADURGA TALUK (W.I. 34940)/call-5
Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-120.00
Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 27-05-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 29-05-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 30-05-2026 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 01-06-2026 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 91 9240214000 and 91 9240214001.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 111/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Chitradurga.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road,
Bengaluru - 560009.
Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for the below mentioned work.
Development works for Visvesvaraya Technological University Constituent College at Chintamani, Chikkaballapura district (Phase-3). **Work Indent No. :** KHB/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 755 & IFT No.22/2026-27 Date: 07.05.2026. **Amount put to tender :** Rs. 3,18,04,668/-.
Last date for submission of bid is on 06.06.2026 upto 4.00 PM.
For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/770/AKAR/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Olo Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor,
Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru 560070.
Phone No: 080-26716046 Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/12/2026-27 Dated:21.05.2026
KPPP Tender Notice (Two Cover System)
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited through **KPPP Portal** by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, **For 5054 Flood Grants** Works. **(RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23962)** The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated:04.06.2026 upto 4.00 pm**. Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/766/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

RAMANAGARA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Kengal Hanumanthaiah Abhirudhi Bhavan,
B. M. Road, Bengaluru South District - 562 159.
Phone : 080 - 2727 6616, E-mail : ruda.rmr@gmail.com
No. : R.D.A./E-Procurement/Tender Notification/36/2026-27
Date : 15-05-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP Portal Only)
As per Karnataka Tender Transparency 1999 - 2000 act 2000 rule accordingly Tender had been invited under signed Officer through KPPP as per Standard Tender Document. Eligible Contractors registered in Public Work Department can Participate for the Work Tender Called through KPPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Maximum Amount of Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. EMD Amount is Rs. 2.00 Lakhs Eligible Bidders can Upload through KPPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in within Dated : 04-06-2026 upto 5.00 p.m. as informed all the required Document to be Submitted.
For more information Contact Engineering Section of RUDA.
Sd/- Commissioner,
R.U.D.A., Bengaluru South District.
DIPR/Ramanagar/65/Manipal/2026-27

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

Enriched uranium must remain inside Iran: Mojtaba

'Israel will not consider the conflict resolved unless Iran's enriched uranium is removed, its ballistic missile program is dismantled'

DUBAI

The reported order from Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei marks a significant hardening of Iran's position on one of the key demands made by the United States during peace negotiations.

Washington and Israel have insisted that Iran's highly enriched uranium stockpile be removed from the country as part of any final agreement aimed at reducing regional tensions and preventing the development of nuclear weapons.

According to the Iranian sources, the Supreme Leader believes that transferring the uranium abroad would weaken Iran's security and leave the country exposed to future military pressure from both the United States and Israel.

The sources, who spoke anonymously due to the sensitivity of the issue, said there is broad agreement among

senior Iranian officials that the stockpile must remain under Iranian control.

Israeli officials have reportedly said that U.S. President Donald Trump assured Israel that any peace deal would include provisions requiring Iran to export its enriched uranium.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly stated that Israel will not consider the conflict resolved unless Iran's enriched uranium is removed, its ballistic missile program is dismantled, and its support for regional proxy militias comes to an end.

Iran has consistently denied accusations that it is attempting to develop nuclear weapons. However, Western countries, including the United States and Israel, have expressed concern over Tehran's decision to enrich uranium to 60 percent purity, a level much higher than required for civilian energy purposes and much closer to weapons-grade enrichment levels of around 90 percent.

A fragile ceasefire currently remains in place after weeks of escalating military conflict that began with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iranian targets on February 28. Iran later responded by targeting Gulf states hosting American military bases, while clashes also intensified between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah group in Lebanon.

Despite diplomatic mediation efforts led by Pakistan, negotiations have made little progress. Tensions remain high due to the ongoing U.S. blockade of Iranian ports and Tehran's strategic control over the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil shipping routes. Analysts warn that disagreements over Iran's uranium stockpile could become a major obstacle to achieving a lasting peace agreement in the region.

Russia holds nuclear drills amid rising tensions with NATO

MOSCOW

Russia on Thursday intensified its military signalling toward the West by delivering nuclear munitions to facilities in Belarus and showcasing elements of its strategic nuclear forces during large-scale military exercises.

The Russian defence ministry announced that nuclear munitions had been delivered to field storage facilities connected to a missile brigade stationed in Belarus as part of ongoing nuclear force exercises.

The large-scale drills, described as some of Russia's most significant nuclear exercises in recent years, involve around 64,000 military personnel and are focused on preparing and using nuclear forces in the event of external aggression.

During the exercises, Russia displayed several strategic military assets, including a Borei-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, Il-38 anti-submarine aircraft, MiG-31 fighter jets armed with Kinzhal hypersonic missiles, and RS-24 Yars inter-

The military activities are taking place against the backdrop of the continuing conflict in Ukraine

continental ballistic missiles. The exercises also involve Russia's Strategic Missile Forces, the Northern and Pacific fleets, long-range aviation units, and military formations from the Leningrad and Central military districts.

According to the Russian military, a missile unit in Belarus is also practising the handling and loading of special munitions for the mobile Iskander-M tactical missile system. Although Russian nuclear drills typically use dummy warheads for training purposes, the public display of strategic weapon systems is being viewed as a strong message directed toward NATO and Western governments.

Videos released by the Russian defence ministry showed military vehicles transporting equipment, as well as submarines, aircraft, and warships participating in the drills. The exercises, which began on Tuesday across Russia and Belarus, are scheduled to continue for three days.

The military activities are taking place against the backdrop of the continuing conflict in Ukraine, which Moscow has repeatedly described as an existential confrontation with the West.

Since the beginning of the war, Russian President Vladimir Putin has frequently highlighted Russia's nuclear capabilities while warning Western nations against expanding military support for Ukraine. Kyiv and several Western leaders have criticised such statements, accusing Moscow of using nuclear threats to intimidate its opponents. At the same time, tensions have increased in the Baltic region.

Pak pushes fresh US-Iran talks as nuke deal framework takes shape

DUBAI

Pakistan increased diplomatic efforts on Thursday to accelerate peace negotiations between the United States and Iran as tensions over Tehran's nuclear programme continued to rise.

More than six weeks after a fragile ceasefire took effect between Iran, the United States, and Israel, negotiations aimed at ending the conflict have shown little meaningful progress.

The prolonged uncertainty has contributed to rising global oil prices, increasing inflationary pressure and creating fresh concerns for the international economy.

The ongoing energy crisis has also become a political issue in the United States. President Trump is facing growing domestic pressure ahead of the November midterm elections, with recent polls indicating that his approval ratings have fallen close to their lowest levels since his return to the White House. Analysts say rising fuel prices have become a major concern for American voters and are influencing the administration's urgency in seeking a diplomatic breakthrough.

According to three sources familiar with the negotiations, Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir was expected to decide on Thursday whether he would travel to Tehran to support mediation efforts between the two sides. The sources, who requested anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly, said Pakistan has been actively working to improve communication channels and speed up negotiations.

Pakistan's interior minister visited Tehran as part of the broader diplomatic effort. One source involved in the discussions said Islamabad was engaging with different groups inside Iran to streamline communication and help move talks forward more quickly.

The source also acknowledged concerns over President Trump's increasingly impatient approach toward the negotiations. According to the source, Pakistan is attempting to manage the pace at which messages are exchanged between Tehran and Washington in order to avoid further escalation.

Iran's ISNA news agency reported that General Munir was expected to travel to Tehran for consultations regarding the framework of a possible agreement. Discussions are reportedly focused on broad principles, confidence-building measures, and guarantees that could support a future peace arrangement.

However, the negotiations suffered another setback after two senior Iranian sources revealed that Tehran had adopted a firmer position regarding one of the key U.S. demands linked to Iran's nuclear programme.

Finland's massive bomb shelters draw world to Helsinki

HELSINKI

Visiting mayors from Ukrainian cities took pictures inside an enormous cave carved in the bedrock below the Finnish capital, taking in the size and the possibilities of a space that can accommodate 6,000 people.

They are among around 800 foreign delegations who have visited Helsinki's Merihaka civil shelter - the biggest of the country's dual-use shelters and now a major shop window for Finnish companies looking to export to buyers concerned about the war in Ukraine and, increasingly, the conflict with Iran.

At 71,000 cubic metres, the shelter is roughly the volume of a seven-storey office building. It was built in 2003 and has sports pitches, a gym and a children's playground 25 metres (80 ft) underground that are in use daily.

Should it be needed in an emergency, it can be converted with stores of bunk beds,

water tanks and portable toilets within 72 hours.

As well as being a testament to Finland's painful history with neighbouring Russia during World War Two, building such shelters remains mandatory underneath residential and commercial buildings of a certain size.

With that requirement, Finnish companies are skilled in their construction and upkeep - such as fitting and maintaining radiation-proof doors, ventilation equipment and emergency power, as well as communications and sewerage networks.

Politicians, administrators and businesses from overseas, such as oil giant Saudi Aramco, have all sought information or visits, authorities and companies involved said.

Resilience Center Finland, an exports body established in March, said Finland's security and defence exports stood at tens of billions of euros, with shelter sales amounting to some dozen million euros, with significant growth potential.

Within two years we won't need to compete fiercely with our peers over getting a gig. Rather, it will very soon be a question of capacity running out, Ilkka Kivisaari, CEO of Finnish-Swiss-owned Verona Shelters Group, said, citing high demand in countries such as Poland and Germany and high interest from the Middle East.

Merihaka is among 48 big and 5,500 smaller shelters in Helsinki - among 50,500 constructed around the country, the legacy of a Soviet invasion attempt during World War Two.

Merz pitches 'associate' EU membership for Ukraine

BRUSSELS

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has proposed giving Ukraine a direct role in European Union structures as an interim step to EU membership that he said could help facilitate a deal to end the war triggered by Russia's invasion. In a letter to EU leaders seen by Reuters, Merz suggested Ukraine could be granted a new status of associate member that would allow Ukrainian officials to take part in EU summits and ministerial meetings but not vote in them. The German leader also proposed that EU members make a political commitment to apply the bloc's mutual assistance clause to Ukraine in order to create a substantial security guarantee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, ,Ranjitha K M w/o Mahendra a resident of Kalamma Koppalu village, Saligrama Hobli, Saligrama Taluk, Mysore District, owns property in Kalamma Koppalu village, Saligrama Hobli, Saligrama Taluk, Mysore District under Property No. 152200300125400257.
The Original Registered Partition Deed of the said property, which was registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar on 02-08-2024 under Deed Number MIR-1-01537/2024-25 (Book 1, Volume No. 259/354/232/232), has been lost at the Saligrama Bus Stand.
Therefore, if anyone finds the aforementioned original partition deed, they are requested to return it to:
Sri Veeresh Rao Bobade
Advocate & Notary,
No. 1, Shivashankar Complex,
Gokula Road, Hunsur.

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Smt, M.Sirisha W/o Muralidhara .G , Residing at Behind Ganesha Temple, teachers Colony, VTC Mulabagal, Mulabagal taluk, Kolar District. I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Photo copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at Residing at Behind Ganesha Temple, teachers Colony, VTC Mulabagal, Mulabagal taluk, Kolar District, had published the factum of lost of her Original Marks Card, Original SSLC Marks Card Regd no.762723, and Council for INDIAN School Certificate Examanitions Class 10 year 2015, Unique id 603677, and Statement of Marks;-issued by Council for INDIAN School Certificate Examanitions Class 10 year 2015, no.1153259/036, police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2215349/2026, DATED;-21-05-2026, and complaint dated;-21-05-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.
Place;-Chinthamani,
Date;-21-05-2026 K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI.M;-9980110692

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SACHIN S/o JASPAL, R/o 5-3-192, Bhalkibhalki, Bhalki, Bidar, Karnataka-585328, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SACHIN KARKARE.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, IMRAN PASHA S/o MAHABOOB PASHA R/o 10/14, 5th Main, F Jawahar School, B T M Layout, 1st Stage, Taverekere, Banaglore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560029, have changed the name of my minor daughter RANIYA YASMEEN aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as IZHA ANJUM.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NARASIMHAMURTHY R S/o RAMANNA R/o Chinnenahalli, Midigeshi Hobli, Madhugiri, Neerakallu, Tumkur, Karnataka-572133, have changed the name of my minor son SHREE JAI N S aged 7 years and he shall hereafter be known as CHANDRASHEKAR N S.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMED FARQUAN**, Resident of No.28, 6th Cross, Near Adams Function Hall Vivani Road, Sagayapuram, Bengaluru-560005, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED FURQAN**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 21.05.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAGA JAGADEESWARI PENUKONDA alias P N JAGADEESHWARI DEVI W/o R KANTHARAJU, R/o 1/464, Panduranga Nagara, Tumkur, Karnataka-572101, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as P N JAGADEESHWARI DEVI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Radha y D/o Yallappa Mariyappa R/o No. 174 8th Cross 7th B Main, Near Swimming Pool, Hampinagar R P C Layout, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560104, have changed my name to Sanjana.

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Smt.Usharani W/o Baskaran, Residing at D K Halli Plantation Vilage, Doddurukarapanahalli Gramapanchayth, Bangarapete Taluk, Kolar District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Certified copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at Residing at D K Halli Plantation Village, Doddurukarapanahalli Gramapanchayth, Bangarapete Taluk, Kolar District, had published the factum of lost of her Original Regd Sale Deed, Executed by The Beml Empolyes Housing Co-opeartive Society Limited, in favour of Sri, M.R.Vasudevan s/o Late, Ramannair , In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.1947, Pages 243 onwards, In regd before of the SRO Bangarapete ,in Respect of Property Bearing Katha Property No,456/B171,measuring East to west 30 feets, North to South 45 Feets, Situated at D K Halli Plantation Vilage, Doddurukarapanahalli Gramapanchayth, Bangarapete Taluk, Kolar District,and Regd Sale Deed, Executed by Sri, M.R.Vasudevan s/o Late, Ramannair , in favour of Sri.Umesh T S/o Late.Thuruvengadam, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.BPT-1-00472/2024-25,In regd before of the SRO Bangarapete ,in Respect of Property Bearing E-Swathu Form No.9 and 11A,E-Swathu No.151900204200200567,Property No,456/B171,In measuring East to west 9.144 Meters,North to South 13.716 Meters,Totally measuring 125.410000 Sq Meters, Building Area 105.350000 Sq Meters ,Situated at D K Halli Plantation Vilage, Doddurukarapanahalli Gramapanchayth, Bangarapete Taluk, Kolar District,police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2215324/2026, DATED;-21-05-2026, and complaint dated;-21-05-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.
Place;-Chinthamani.
Date;-21-05-2026 K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI.M;-9980110692

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

Ebola case confirmed in rebel-held Congo

KINSHASA

A case of Ebola has been confirmed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo's South Kivu province - hundreds of kilometres from the outbreak's epicentre - the rebel alliance that controls the area said on Thursday.

The case in a rural area near the provincial capital of Bukavu marks an expansion of an outbreak that experts believe circulated for around two months in Ituri province, several hundred kilometres to the north, before being detected last week. The Alliance Fleuve Congo, which includes the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels who seized swathes of eastern DRC last year, said in a statement that the 28-year-old patient had died and been buried safely.

It said the person had come from the northern city of Kisangani, in Tshopo province, but it did not provide details about their recent movements.

The World Health Organization at the weekend declared the outbreak of the virus' Bundibugyo strain, for which there is no vaccine, a public health emergency of international concern.

The outbreak has been linked to 139 deaths and there were 600 suspected cases in eastern DRC's Ituri and North Kivu provinces, according to the WHO. Two cases have also been confirmed in neighboring Uganda.

South Kivu health spokesperson Claude Bahizire told Reuters earlier on Thursday that two suspected cases, including the patient who died, had been detected in the province. The other patient was in isolation awaiting test results, he said.

Last week, an Ebola case was confirmed in M23-held Goma, the capital of neighbouring North Kivu province.

M23 said earlier this week that it was committed to working with international partners to contain the outbreak.

Record 274 climbers scale Everest in one day

KATHMANDU

A record number of 274 climbers scaled Mount Everest, a hiking official said, the highest number ever to reach the world's tallest peak on the same day from the Nepali side.

The 8,849-metre (29,032 feet) Everest straddles the border between Nepal and the Tibet region of China and can be climbed from both sides.

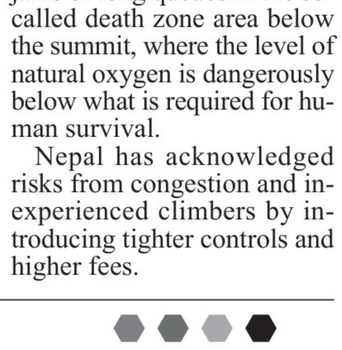
Expedition operators say there were no climbers on the Tibetan side this year as Chinese authorities had not issued any permits.

Rishi Bhandari, secretary general of the Expedition Operators Association of Nepal, said on Thursday that the previous highest number of ascents from the Nepali side was 223, on May 22, 2019.

The record for the most people to reach the Everest peak from both sides was set on the next day – May 23, 2019 – when 354 climbers made it, according to Guinness World Records.

This is the highest number of climbers in a single day so far, Bhandari told Reuters, referring to the Nepali record, adding the number could rise as some climbers who had reached the summit might not have informed the base camp about their feat yet.

There are no figures available from China on how many climbers reach the peak when the Tibetan side is open, but Bhandari said in the normal climbing season of April and May, about 100 people head to Everest from that side.



Department of Tourism official Himal Gautam said he had received preliminary information that more than 250 people climbed the peak.

We wait for climbers to return, give us photographs and other evidence to prove their ascents and provide them with climbing certificates, Gautam told Reuters. Only then we will be able to confirm the numbers.

Nepal has issued 494 permits to climb Everest this year, each costing $15,000.

Mountaineering experts often criticise Nepal for allowing large numbers of climbers on the mountain, which sometimes leads to risky traffic jams or long queues in the so-called death zone area below the summit, where the level of natural oxygen is dangerously below what is required for human survival.

Nepal has acknowledged risks from congestion and inexperienced climbers by introducing tighter controls and higher fees.

Watson praises spinner Varun Chakaravarthy

KKR assistant coach Shane Watson praised spinner Varun Chakaravarthy for playing through a hairline foot fracture against Mumbai

KOLKATA

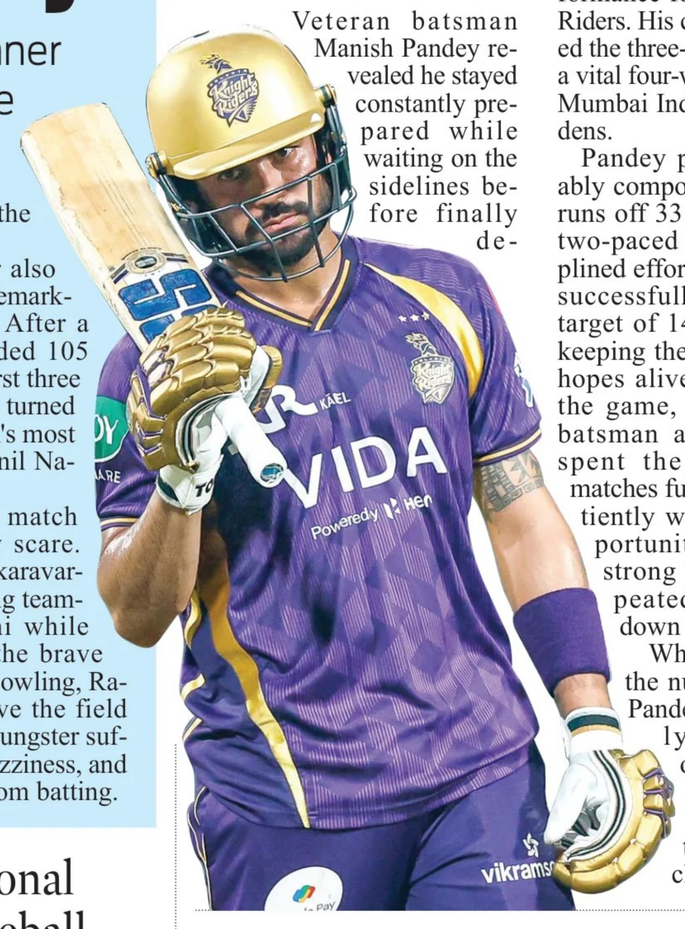
Kolkata Knight Riders assistant coach Shane Watson has showered praise on mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy for his incredible bravery. Following a crucial victory against Mumbai Indians, Watson revealed that the talented bowler has been playing through intense physical pain to help keep his team's tournament dreams alive.

Despite managing a reported hairline fracture in his left foot, Chakaravarthy delivered a beautifully disciplined, economical spell of 0/28 over four overs during a tense, rain-shortened match. Watson admitted he was unsure of the spinner's exact rehab timeline but commended his deep desperation to contribute. He noted that Chakaravarthy could have easily chosen to rest, making his willingness to push through the discomfort highly fortunate for the franchise.

The former Australian star also highlighted Chakaravarthy's remarkable comeback this season. After a rough start where he conceded 105 runs without a wicket in his first three games, the spinner completely turned things around to become KKR's most reliable weapon alongside Sunil Narine.

However, the high-stakes match also brought a major injury scare. During the eleventh over, Chakaravarthy collided heavily with young teammate Angkrish Raghuvanshi while completing a catch. While the brave spinner managed to continue bowling, Raghuvanshi was forced to leave the field later. Watson confirmed the youngster suffered from severe neck pain, dizziness, and a headache, preventing him from batting.

Manish Pandey grabs chance to save KKR



Manish Pandey's patient, composed 45-run knock after four games on the sidelines guided Kolkata Knight Riders to a vital four-wicket playoff-boosting win over Mumbai

KOLKATA

Veteran batsman Manish Pandey revealed he stayed constantly prepared while waiting on the sidelines before finally delivering a match-winning performance for Kolkata Knight Riders. His crucial knock guided the three-time champions to a vital four-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians at Eden Gardens.

Pandey played a remarkably composed innings of 45 runs off 33 balls on a tricky, two-paced pitch. His disciplined effort allowed KKR to successfully chase down a target of 148 in 18.5 overs, keeping their intense playoff hopes alive. Speaking after the game, the experienced batsman admitted he had spent the previous four matches fully padded up, patiently waiting for an opportunity as the team's strong batting form repeatedly pushed him down the batting order.

When finally handed the number three spot, Pandey adjusted quickly. He credited opening partner Ajinkya Rahane for guiding him through the tense chase. The duo focused heavily on watching the ball closely and building steady partnerships. Crucial stands between Pandey and Rahane, and later with power-hitter Rovman Powell, successfully brought the equation down to a comfortable 25 runs needed off the final 25 balls.

Earlier in the match, KKR's disciplined bowling unit did an excellent job restricting Mumbai Indians to a modest 147/8. Later, Powell's quickfire 40 and Rinku Singh's winning boundary sealed the chase. Pandey emphasized that trusting his daily fitness routine and domestic cricket practice prepared him perfectly to grab this vital opportunity with both hands when his team needed it most.

SALIMA TETE LEADS INDIA FOR AUSTRALIA TOUR

BENGALURU

The Indian women's hockey team, captained by Salima Tete, departed for a crucial tour of Australia. The squad will play four highly competitive matches against the powerful hosts in Perth on May 26, 27, 29, and 30 at the local hockey stadium.

This tour offers a brilliant opportunity for the Indian team to test their skills and tactical strategies against one of the top-ranked sides in international hockey. Immediately after concluding their games in Australia, the team will fly to Auckland, New Zealand, to compete in the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup, happening from June 15 to 21.

Skipper Salima expressed immense confidence in her squad before boarding the flight, calling the Australian series a massive stepping stone. She revealed that the players underwent intense training camps focusing deeply on physical fitness, on-field combinations, and structural discipline. Salima emphasized that playing the mighty Australians on their own turf is exactly the tough challenge India needs to prepare for upcoming mega-events like the Asian Games and the World Cup.

With the crucial Nations Cup right around the corner, the team is desperate to build positive momentum, fine-tune their weaknesses, and develop into a cohesive playing unit. Every single match in Perth will act as an important performance marker. The Indian side is highly focused on peaking at the right time, using these high-stakes international matches to gain valuable experience and bring glory back home.

National Pickleball selection trials in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD

The Indian Pickleball Association (IPA), in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India, has announced that it will host national selection trials for the junior and sub-junior teams next month. The crucial three-day selection event is scheduled to take place in Ahmedabad from June 12 to 14. The upcoming selection rounds will determine the official youth squad representing India at the prestigious third edition of the Pickleball World Cup. Sanctioned by the Global Pickleball Federation, the mega international tournament will take place in Vietnam from August 30 to September 9.

More than 100 passionate young players from various states, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Gujarat, are traveling to Ahmedabad. These athletes are competing heavily for a golden opportunity to represent the nation in the competitive Under-14 and Under-18 tournament categories. A prominent selection panel consisting of experienced sports figures, including IPA Chief Executive Officer Aditya Khanna, will closely monitor the matches to spot the best talent.

Jwala Gutta flags India's poor bench strength

NEW DELHI

Indian badminton icon Jwala Gutta has strongly criticized what she calls a growing culture of silence and compromise within the country's sporting system. In an interview, the World Championship bronze medalist questioned why current and former players avoid speaking out against major structural problems.

Gutta pointed to India's worrying lack of bench strength as a primary sign of systemic failure. Comparing India to powerhouse China, she noted that if a Chinese world champion gets injured, another one is always ready to step up. She expressed deep disappointment that former athletes who have now joined sports associations are failing to push for necessary grassroots reforms.

The Commonwealth Games gold medalist shared her personal struggles running a non-profit badminton academy in Hyderabad. Gutta revealed that securing financial backing has been an uphill battle because she refuses to play political games for influence. She believes her outspoken nature has unfortunately distanced her from the current sporting establishment.

Reflecting on her playing days, Gutta recalled having to fund her own international trips despite being the national champion and world number five. She also touched upon recent frustrating comments by current doubles star Satwiksairaj Rankireddy regarding a lack of recognition. Gutta firmly believes that successful, privileged athletes have a social responsibility to advocate for the next generation. She credited her own family for giving her the immense courage to fight the federation during her career, urging others to find their voice.

AB de Villiers joins Kabuni as AI 'Super Coach'

NEW DELHI

AI-powered sports technology platform Kabuni has announced the landmark appointment of former South African captain and global batting icon AB de Villiers as its newest "Super Coach." The legendary batsman joins an elite coaching roster that already features Indian cricket stalwart Sourav Ganguly and former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson.

The partnership is designed to bridge the gap between grassroots talent and elite professional performance. By combining de Villiers' deep, real-world cricketing intelligence with Kabuni's cutting-edge artificial intelligence, the platform aims to make world-class coaching accessible to aspiring players globally.

Kabuni's technology transforms traditional net practice by using motion tracking and biomechanics to analyze player movements and ball data in real time. Rather than overwhelming young players with heavy spreadsheets, the system delivers intuitive visual, video, and voice cues. It operates on a "1% improvement" philosophy, focusing on small, immediate adjustments that yield massive technical gains over time. Young fans will soon get a taste of this elite system. Kabuni revealed that a nationwide tournament will launch this June for Indian players aged 12 to 16. Using the platform's AI metrics, participants will get to compete for a coveted opportunity to play directly under de Villiers' team.

"Cricket has always been about expression for me, finding new ways to solve problems and push limits," AB de Villiers said. "What Kabuni is building gives young players a platform to explore their game, trust their instincts, and develop naturally." Nimesh Patel, Founder and CEO of Kabuni, expressed immense excitement over the signing, stating that de Villiers' unique ability to creatively reimagine the game aligns perfectly with the platform's mission to technically and mentally empower the next generation of cricketers.

Ketan Kushwaha named Indian Hockey Youth Captain

BHOPAL

Hockey India has officially announced a talented 18-member junior squad for the upcoming Men's U18 Asia Cup. Promising young forward Ketan Kushwaha has been named the team captain to lead the national side during the prestigious tournament, scheduled from May 29 to June 6 in Kakamigahara, Japan.

The final squad was carefully selected following a highly competitive national coaching camp held at the SAI Centre in Bhopal. Under the watchful eyes of legendary former captain Sardar Singh and coach Rajnish Mishra, the players underwent rigorous physical training and tactical drills to prepare for the massive continental challenge.

As part of their intense preparation tour, the young Indian team recently played a challenging four-match exhibition series against the visiting Australia U18 squad in Bhopal. The high-profile series ended evenly, with India recording one victory, one loss, and two competitive draws, giving the young athletes crucial exposure to international game speed and pressure.

India will face a demanding group stage format in Japan. The boys will launch their official campaign on opening day, May 29, against Kazakhstan, before heading into a highly anticipated, tough clash with host nation Japan on May 31. They will wrap up their remaining pool matches against South Korea and Chinese Taipei.

Coach Sardar Singh expressed immense confidence in his squad, highlighting their sharp focus on penalty corners and structural discipline. With morale running incredibly high, the main objective remains crystal clear, topping the group and bringing the trophy back home.

Anukul Roy called up to India 'A' squad

NEW DELHI

All-rounder Anukul Roy has been officially drafted into the India 'A' squad for the upcoming white-ball tri-series in Sri Lanka. The 27-year-old dynamic cricketer replaces spin-bowling all-rounder Harsh Dubey, who recently earned a sensational, maiden call-up to the senior Indian Test and ODI squads for the home series against Afghanistan.

The highly anticipated tri-series is scheduled to take place from June 9 to 21 in Dambulla, featuring India 'A', hosts Sri Lanka 'A', and Afghanistan 'A'. Explosive batsman Tilak Varma will captain the talented Indian side, while Riyan Parag has been named the team's vice-captain.

Anukul Roy, who originally shot to fame as the joint-highest wicket-taker during India's victorious 2018 Under-19 World Cup campaign, has been in phenomenal form recently. The left-arm spinner and handy batsman has delivered crucial performances for Kolkata Knight Riders in the current IPL 2026 season, taking eight wickets and playing valuable cameos. Furthermore, he was the backbone of Jharkhand's recent domestic title run, smashing 303 runs at a staggering strike rate of 160.31.

Harmanpreet Kaur targets dominant era for Indian cricket

NEW DELHI

Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur has declared that her team wants to make "winning a habit" as they prepare for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England. Reflecting on their historic Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 ODI title victory, Kaur believes the landmark win has permanently shifted the team's mindset from chasing history to building sustained global dominance.

Writing in her official ICC column, Kaur emphasized that India's maiden 50-over world title was a seminal moment that brought immense belief to young girls across the country. While acknowledging that the triumph has raised public expectations and added pressure, she described it as a "good kind of pressure" that forces the team to stay hungry and recreate their success on the T20 stage.

India's preparation for the mega event has been highly demanding, featuring a home sweep against Sri Lanka and a historic T20I series win in Australia, their first in a decade alongside a tough series defeat in South Africa. Kaur notes that these diverse experiences have provided invaluable lessons for a format where the margins for error are incredibly small. She hopes a victory in this tournament will officially signal the beginning of a dominant, consistent era for the Women in Blue.

The balanced Indian squad blends experienced core players with fearless young talent unearthed by the Women's Premier League (WPL), which Kaur credited for maturing players under high-stakes pressure. The tournament also marks an emotional return to England for the skipper, where her iconic unbeaten 171 against Australia in the 2017 World Cup semifinal originally transformed public perception of the women's game. Placed in Group A alongside heavyweights like Australia and South Africa, India will kick off their quest for glory with a blockbuster clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in Birmingham on June 14.

QUICK READ

Airbnb expands into hotels, cars, groceries

New Delhi

Travel companies are increasingly transforming their apps into all-in-one platforms as demand grows for seamless journeys. Airbnb has unveiled new services including airport pickups, luggage storage, grocery delivery, boutique hotel bookings and AI-powered travel tools. The company also plans to add car rentals later this year, positioning itself against rivals offering integrated travel experiences. According to Airbnb, travellers now prefer booking accommodation, transport, activities and support from one application instead of using multiple services. The updated platform also introduces social trip-planning features and personalised recommendations. Industry analysts believe convenience-focused ecosystems could shape the future of travel technology, especially ahead of major global events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament.

Apple brings advanced health features for Indian wearables

New Delhi

Apple has introduced AI-driven sleep apnea notifications for Apple Watch users and a clinically validated hearing test for AirPods Pro users in India. The Watch feature uses accelerometer data to track breathing disturbances during sleep and alerts users if signs of moderate to severe sleep apnea appear consistently over thirty days. Users can also export reports for doctors. Apple said untreated sleep apnea may increase risks of hypertension, diabetes and heart disease. Meanwhile, AirPods Pro 2 users can complete a five-minute hearing assessment using compatible iPhones or iPads. Results, including audiograms and hearing loss classifications, are securely stored in the Health app and shareable with healthcare professionals for medical consultations.

India tops Asia Pacific property yields growth

New Delhi

India has emerged as the highest-yielding real estate market across Asia Pacific in Q1 2026, according to a CBRE report. The country also saw a 189% year-on-year surge in investment volumes, reaching about $2.29 billion. Strong demand was recorded across office, retail, logistics, hotels, and student housing sectors. Cap rates in India remain significantly higher than in mature markets like Singapore and Japan, offering attractive returns for investors.

Modi's 5 nation tour secures $40B pipeline

The visit witnessed several multinational corporations announcing fresh investments and expansion plans

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent five-nation diplomatic tour has helped India secure an investment pipeline worth nearly $40 billion, according to government officials.

The visit witnessed several multinational corporations announcing fresh investments and expansion plans across sectors including semiconductors, infrastructure, logistics and technology.

During the tour, PM Modi met chief executives and senior officials from more than

50 global companies. Officials stated that the combined market valuation of these firms ranges between $2.7 trillion and $3 trillion, highlighting the scale of corporate engagement during the high-profile visit.

Many of these companies already operate extensively in India, with their cumulative investments and business exposure in the country estimated at nearly $180 billion.

Government officials said several firms expressed interest in expanding operations in India, citing strong economic growth, policy stability and rising domestic consumption as key attractions.Among the major developments, the United Arab Emirates committed fresh investments worth nearly $5 billion in India.

Officials added that the total value of new investment commitments and proposed business expansion plans discussed during the visit reached approximately $40 billion.

PM Modi's five-country tour included visits to the UAE, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy. During the trip, India signed several agreements aimed at strengthening cooperation in trade, defence, clean energy, artificial intelligence and advanced technologies.

India and the Netherlands unveiled a strategic partnership roadmap focusing on semiconductors, green hydrogen and technology collaboration. India and Sweden elevated bilateral relations to a strategic partnership, while PM Modi also attended the third India-Nordic Summit in Norway and held meetings with Nordic leaders.In Italy,

India and Italy announced a Special Strategic Partnership following discussions between Modi and Italian PM Giorgia Meloni.

In a post on X, PM Modi described the Italy visit as "very productive" and said the upgraded partnership would add fresh momentum to bilateral cooperation and economic engagement between the two nations.

CII urges national strategy to tackle inflation risks

NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has called for a coordinated national strategy to address rising risks in fuel, fertiliser, and food prices amid ongoing global tensions.

The industry body described the "3Fs" challenge as interconnected and said it must be handled as a single economic issue.CII suggested expanding ethanol blending programmes, promoting flex-fuel vehicles, and developing LNG-based transport infrastructure to reduce fuel dependency.

India–Nordic summit signals shift in global AI ruling power

NEW DELHI

India–Nordic Summit 2026 highlights India's rising role in global AI governance, strengthening cooperation on digital infrastructure, green tech, and inclusive technology frameworks.

The third India–Nordic Summit 2026, held in Oslo, has been described as a turning point in global technology governance, with India emerging as a co-architect of digital and artificial intelligence norms rather than a passive rule-taker, according to a report by India Narrative.

The summit brought together India and Nordic countries to deepen cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, green technology and innovation-led economic growth.

Leaders from both sides framed the partnership as a strategic alignment aimed at building resilient supply chains, strengthening research ecosystems and developing shared digital frameworks.

Nordic countries highlighted India as a large-scale testbed for inclusive digital innovation, while Norway and its regional partners were seen as hubs of advanced green-tech expertise and governance models.

The collaboration is expected to generate both commercial opportunities and geopolitical stability in an increasingly fragmented global technology landscape.A key focus of the discussions was the governance of artificial intelligence.

The report noted that India is increasingly shaping its own AI governance framework and inviting participation from both developed and developing economies. This marks a shift from earlier periods when global rules were largely influenced by Western economies.

The India-led AI Impact Declaration, which emphasizes human-centric and inclusive AI development, was highlighted as a contrast to security-focused regulatory debates in regions such as the United States and the European Union.

The declaration prioritizes human capital development, equitable access to AI tools and democratization of digital technologies.

The summit also emphasized India's rapidly expanding digital public infrastructure, including systems such as Aadhaar, UPI and open digital APIs. These platforms now support large-scale financial inclusion and welfare delivery across the country and are increasingly being adapted internationally.

Officials and experts noted that stronger India–Nordic cooperation could also help diversify global supply chains away from overdependence on China while boosting innovation ecosystems in both regions. The summit concluded with a shared vision of strengthening long-term collaboration in technology, sustainability and digital governance.

SpaceX IPO plan sparks global investor frenzy

NEW DELHI

SpaceX has officially announced plans for its much-anticipated initial public offering (IPO), with the company expected to trade under the ticker symbol "SPCX" on the Nasdaq exchange.

The development has generated enormous excitement among investors and market analysts worldwide, as the Elon Musk-led aerospace company prepares for what could become one of the largest stock market listings in history.

According to media reports, SpaceX could be valued at nearly USD 2 trillion, making it one of the world's most valuable publicly traded companies after the IPO launch. The company is reportedly targeting a fundraising figure of around USD 75 billion through the public offering, with pricing discussions expected to begin in the coming weeks.

Founded in 2002 by billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, SpaceX revolutionized the global space industry through reusable rocket technology, successful satellite launches, and ambitious interplanetary exploration projects.

The company also operates Starlink, its satellite-based internet business, which has rapidly expanded worldwide and become a major source of revenue.Industry experts believe the IPO will significantly boost investor interest in the commercial space and technology sectors.

Analysts say retail and institutional investors are likely to show strong participation once SPCX shares become publicly available on Nasdaq. Reports further indicate that SpaceX is increasing investments in AI infrastructure and advanced computing technologies as part of its long-term growth strategy.

India assures steady fuel supply across retail outlets

NEW DELHI

The Government of India has confirmed that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) across retail outlets in the country.

Senior officials stated on Thursday that fuel supply remains stable and uninterrupted nationwide, and any petrol pumps restricting supply or dispensing reduced quantities are being closely monitored and addressed.

According to officials, the government is actively tracking feedback from petrol pumps across India to ensure smooth distribution of fuels. They emphasized that supply to all retail outlets is being fully maintained and that consumers should not face any disruption in availability.

Authorities also clarified that there has been no reduction in crude oil imports from Russia, ensuring that domestic refineries continue to receive adequate crude supplies for processing. This helps maintain steady production levels of petrol, diesel, and other petroleum products.

Officials noted that demand for diesel has increased in certain regions due to the ongoing agricultural harvesting season. Additionally, some consumers have shifted from private oil marketing companies to public sector fuel stations, which are perceived as offering more stable pricing. Institutional and commercial fuel sales have also moved towards retail pumps due to price differences.

The government recently announced a modest increase of ₹3.91 per litre in petrol and diesel prices, equivalent to a 4.4 per cent rise. Officials stated that this adjustment is significantly lower compared to global fuel price trends and follows a period of 76 days during which public sector oil companies absorbed rising crude costs.

They highlighted that fuel price increases in many other countries have been far sharper due to global crude oil volatility. Emerging markets and developed economies alike have seen higher percentage increases in petrol and diesel prices, with some countries experiencing rises exceeding 40 to 60%.

Officials reiterated that India's pricing adjustments remain among the most moderate globally, reflecting efforts to balance consumer protection with global market realities while ensuring long-term fuel supply stability.

RBI May transfer record dividend to govt FY26

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to transfer a record surplus dividend to the central government for the financial year 2025–26, with estimates ranging between ₹2.7 lakh crore and ₹3.5 lakh crore, according to a media report.

The report noted that the RBI's central board is scheduled to meet on Friday to decide on the final surplus transfer. If the payout reaches the upper end of projections, it would become the highest dividend ever paid by the central bank to the government.

In the previous financial year, the RBI transferred a record ₹2.69 lakh crore surplus to the Centre, making this year's expected payout a significant increase.

The rise in surplus is attributed to multiple factors, including gains from currency volatility, higher returns from foreign exchange operations, and improved investment income. A key contributor was the nearly 10 per cent depreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar during FY26, which boosted valuation gains on the RBI's foreign currency assets.

The central bank also reportedly benefited from active interventions in currency markets, including dollar sales aimed at stabilizing the rupee during periods of volatility. These operations helped generate additional income for the RBI.

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by around 3 per cent during FY26, reaching nearly $688 billion, further strengthening the RBI's financial position. Income from investments and currency issuance also added to the overall surplus.

Over the past three years, RBI dividend transfers to the government have increased more than threefold, becoming an important source of non-tax revenue for the Centre. Analysts note that these transfers play a significant role in supporting fiscal planning and government expenditure.

Earlier projections suggested that RBI dividend payouts could remain elevated in the coming year as well, though slightly lower than peak levels. However, the central bank has not yet issued an official statement confirming the final amount of the FY26 transfer.

India's pvt sector growth slips as geopolitical tensions weigh

NEW DELHI

India's private sector economy witnessed a marginal slowdown in May amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and global economic uncertainties, according to the latest HSBC Flash India PMI data released on Thursday.

The HSBC Flash India PMI Composite Output Index stood at 58.1 in May, slightly lower than April's 58.2 reading. Despite the dip, the index remained well above the 50-mark, indicating continued expansion in overall private sector activity.

The report showed that stronger growth in the services sector helped offset weaker performance in manufacturing activity. However, factory production and new order growth moderated during the month, contributing to the softer overall expansion.

HSBC chief India economist Pranjul Bhandari said manufacturing activity eased marginally as both output and new orders slowed. Export demand also weakened significantly, with new export orders recording their slowest expansion in 19 months. Manufacturers saw the second-slowest increase in international sales since September 2024.

BUILT ON TRUST

India-US ties strengthens tech, economy sectors

NEW DELHI

India and the United States are emerging as natural partners across multiple strategic sectors, including technology innovation, defence manufacturing, digital infrastructure, quantum computing, and medical devices, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

Speaking at the annual leadership summit of the American Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi, Goyal said the relationship between the two countries is built on mutual trust, shared economic interests, and strong complementarity rather than competition.He emphasized that both economies reinforce each other's strengths, making the partnership uniquely powerful in the global economic landscape.

The Minister noted that American companies have committed investments worth over $60 billion in India over the past six months. Major technology firms such as Amazon and Google are among those expanding data centre infrastructure in the country, reflecting India's growing importance in global digital ecosystems.Goyal highlighted that India offers global companies a combination of scale, skilled talent, and market opportunity driven by a population of 1.4 billion people, rising incomes, and an expanding middle class.

He said India has consistently maintained respect for intellectual property rights and provides a trusted framework for global businesses seeking reliable partners.

He further stated that the two countries are not direct competitors in most sectors, but instead complement each other, allowing for stronger collaboration in building resilient and trusted global supply chains.

The government is also focusing on strengthening the role of micro, small and medium enterprises in international trade. Initiatives involving the MSME Ministry and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade aim to improve technology adoption and skill development.

An upcoming Export Promotion Mission will help MSMEs obtain globally recognised certifications to integrate into global supply chains.

S. Korea imposes anti-dumping duties on European PVC resin imports

SEOUL

South Korea's trade watchdog has decided to impose anti-dumping tariffs on polyvinyl chloride (PVC) paste resin imports from four European countries, citing significant harm to the domestic industry.

The decision was announced Thursday by the country's industry ministry following an investigation by the Korea Trade Commission (KTC).Under the ruling, anti-dumping duties ranging from 25.79 percent to 31.55 percent will be imposed on PVC paste resin products imported from Germany, France, Norway and Sweden.

The tariffs are expected to be formally recommended to South Korea's finance ministry for implementation.PVC paste resin is a fine-powder resin commonly used in interior construction materials and various industrial products, including gloves, shoes and synthetic leather goods. South Korean authorities concluded that low-priced imports from European manufacturers caused "tangible" damage to local producers.

Siri Music releases popular song Neen Iddare

MANGALURU

Siri Music has released the album song "Neen Iddare" under Mogachi Larhran Creation, and the team is celebrating its growing popularity online Veteran actor Ramesh Bhatt dedicated the song to the public and praised producer Norbert for his kindness and support He said he attended the event despite his busy shooting schedule because of their close bond The song is produced by Mangaluru-born Australian resident Norbert, while Vincent Fernandes Cascia handled the story, screenplay, lyrics, music, and direction Actress Avile Rodrigues appears in the lead role alongside Karen Pinto and Smitha Pinto The emotional song focuses on memories, family ties, and lost love Cinematography was done by Lakshikant, editing by Rajesh Chauhan, and vocals by Shilpa Cutinha The shoot took place around Himagiri Estate Director Vincent also introduced young drummer Kemril Pinto during the event The team now plans expanding the project into a full feature film.

Survey No 45 nears grand release

MYSURU

The Kannada film "Survey No.45" has entered the final stage of post-production and is attracting attention for its village-based story and strong social message. Produced by Varanandi Cine, the movie is backed by co-producers Anand S.V and Hanumanthareddy S.R. Director Shivakumar M. Shettyhalli has written the script, screenplay, and songs for the film. The story follows a farmer struggling with problems linked to his farmland survey number and shows how wisdom and honesty help him overcome hardships. The film also warns that wrong actions can lead to serious consequences. Popular entertainer Gillinata Santosh plays the lead role along with actresses Pravalika and Mounahasan. Supporting actors include Kumar Arasegowda and Malathi. Music is composed by Vishal Alap, while Deepak Kumar G.K handled cinematography. Shooting for the movie was completed around the scenic Hunsur region recently.

Maithriya Gowda launches Trust and Film Production

BENGALURU

Actress Maithriya Gowda has stepped into film production by launching her new banner through Maithriya Global Trust on her birthday Known for playing Puneeth Rajkumar's sister in "Maurya" and later acting in several films, Maithriya had taken a break from cinema to focus on social service activities The launch event was attended by actor Anirudh, producer Uday Mehta, MLC Saravana, and several television artists Speaking at the function, Maithriya said her childhood dream was to become an actress while also helping society Inspired by the charitable work of Anirudh and the filmmaking style of Uday Mehta, she decided to start the trust and production company She said the organisation will support new talents and conduct programs for orphanages, old age homes, cow shelters, stray dog rescue, and fashion events Auditions for fresh artists have already begun for upcoming projects under the banner, organizers announced during the celebration.

Big twist awaits Drishyam 3

Movie lovers are buzzing with excitement as fresh reports reveal that the highly-awaited film, Drishyam 3, will feature a sensational and unique ending. The upcoming crime thriller promises to take suspense to an entirely new level, leaving audiences stunned.

Superstar Mohanlal returns as the iconic Georgekutty, a family man who will go to any length to protect his loved ones. Director Jeethu Joseph, the mastermind behind the franchise, has reportedly crafted a climax that no one will see coming. Industry insiders whisper that the film does not just wrap up the current mystery; instead, it closes with a chilling promise of another dark chapter.

Over the years, the Drishyam series has become one of Indian cinema's most celebrated thriller franchises. The secret to its massive success lies in how it connects with ordinary people. It is not just about a clever cover-up, it is a deeply human story about family bonds and survival.

Reports suggest that Joseph has once again brilliantly blended emotional family drama with mind-bending plot twists. The narrative is designed to keep viewers glued to their seats, guessing until the very last frame.

For years, fans have wondered if Georgekutty will finally get caught or if he will outsmart the police once again.

Dulquer's "I Am Game" arrives this Onam

Dulquer Salmaan is all set to storm the big screen this festival season. The makers of his highly anticipated action thriller, I Am Game, have officially announced that the movie will hit theaters worldwide on August 20, 2026, perfectly timing its arrival for the grand Onam festival celebrations.

The announcement has sent a massive wave of excitement through fans. Dulquer Salmaan, who is celebrating this project as the monumental 40th film of his career, previously teased that this would be his most stylish and sleek role to date. Directed by hitmaker Nahas Hidayath, who previously delivered the blockbuster action film RDX, the new movie promises a fresh, high-octane theatrical experience.

Filmed across more than 100 stunning locations throughout South India, the big-budget project is currently in its final post-production and dubbing stages. The film is being produced on a grand scale by the successful team behind the recent blockbuster Lokah. To ensure a massive nationwide reach, I Am Game is being prepared for a grand pan-Indian release. Audiences can catch the film in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, and Kannada languages. The movie boasts an impressive ensemble cast, featuring talented actors like Antony Varghese, Mysskin, Kaayadu Lohar, Kathir, and Samyuktha Viswanathan in pivotal roles. With pulsating music composed by Jakes Bejoy and breathtaking stunt sequences designed by the popular action directors Anbariv Masters, this stylish thriller is shaping up to be the ultimate cinematic treat for movie lovers this coming August.

Grand launch for Megastar Chiranjeevi's Mega 158

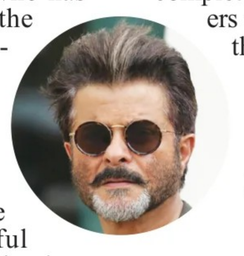
The highly anticipated 158th film of Megastar Chiranjeevi, provisionally titled Mega 158, officially kicked off. The grand launch event turned into a massive celebration for fans as Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and actor Pawan Kalyan attended as the chief guest.

Sparks flew at the ceremony when Pawan Kalyan sounded the opening clapboard for the very first shot. Adding to the excitement, the shot was filmed on his elder brother, Chiranjeevi, making the family reunion a truly unforgettable moment for the "Mega" fanbase.

The mega-project is helmed by director Bobby Kolli and produced by K. Venkata Narayana under the well-known KVN Productions banner. According to industry insiders, the movie had previously faced severe delays and hurdles due to the producer's financial problems. Fortunately, those issues have now been fully resolved, allowing the team to officially begin shooting immediately following the traditional morning pooja ceremony.

The film boasts a top-tier technical team to bring this cinematic vision to life. Popular musician S. Thaman is onboard to compose the soundtrack, while Vijay Kannan will handle the cinematography. Acclaimed technician Avinash Kolla is also serving as the production designer for the grand venture.

Anil Kapoor Steals Show In Dragon Teaser



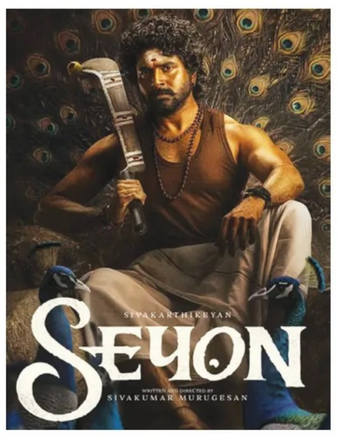
The newly released teaser for the mega-movie Dragon is causing a massive storm. While global superstar Jr NTR is already driving fans wild, it is Bollywood veteran Anil Kapoor who has suddenly stolen the spotlight and become the main talking point across various platforms.

Anil Kapoor's striking, intense look and powerful screen presence in the short video have gone completely viral. This unexpected glimpse has instantly raised audience expectations to a whole new level. Film industry insiders whisper that Kapoor is not just making a brief appearance, instead, he plays one of the strongest and most impactful characters in the entire movie.

Acclaimed director Prashanth Neel is famous for creating gritty, larger-than-life action worlds. Reports suggest that Neel has carefully designed Kapoor's character with immense emotional depth and strength. This meaty role gives the evergreen actor perfect scope to deliver a solid, unforgettable performance that could completely surprise viewers when the film hits the big screen.

Fans are already thrilled to see the unique dynamic between Jr NTR and Anil Kapoor.

Kamal Haasan produces Sivakarthikeyan's upcoming movie Seyon



Celebrated music composer Santhosh Narayanan has opened up about his deep admiration for actor Sivakarthikeyan's inspiring career growth. Speaking at a recent event, the musician praised the actor's difficult journey from television host to one of Tamil cinema's biggest box-office stars. Santhosh Narayanan confessed that he feels incredibly proud of Sivakarthikeyan because they both entered the film industry without any influential backing. He noted that breaking barriers and building a unique space in cinema is an immense challenge. The two share a close bond and speak openly about their experiences. The talented duo is currently collaborating on the highly anticipated movie Seyon, directed by Sivakumar Murugesan. The film is produced by legendary actor Kamal Haasan. Santhosh Narayanan revealed that working on Seyon feels like a deeply personal creative journey rather than just another standard assignment.

He expressed strong confidence that the film will deliver a spectacular entertainment experience, using everything he has learned throughout his musical career.

Expectations for the project are already sky-high following the massive success of Sivakarthikeyan's previous blockbuster Amaran, which was also produced by Kamal Haasan.

Ali Fazal prepares for big screen Mirzapur movie

Crime drama Mirzapur is officially making a massive leap from mobile screens to the silver screen with Mirzapur: The Movie. Actor Ali Fazal, who plays the legendary character Guddu Pandit, recently revealed that taking this famous world to cinemas required a completely fresh artistic approach.

To prepare for the grand cinematic version, Fazal admitted he had to completely detach himself from the rhythm of the original streaming series. Instead of relying on old habits, he treated the movie as an independent project, viewing his past performance as a distant memory to ensure a fresh performance.

The actor explained that long-format web shows give creators plenty of time to build characters slowly. In contrast, cinema forces writers and actors to tell a story much more smartly in a shorter time. To match the grand scale of the big screen, Fazal had to amplify Guddu's signature raw energy, emotional depth, and heavy physicality.

Suriya's movie Karuppu crosses big milestone

Superstar Suriya's latest fantasy action drama, Karuppu, is continuing its spectacular run at the global box office. Despite facing a standard weekday dip, the highly anticipated film has officially crossed the massive Rs 175 crore milestone worldwide within just six days of its theatrical release.

According to tracking reports, the movie earned Rs 10.30 crore net across India in one day, taking its total domestic net collection to Rs 105.35 crore. The film maintained encouraging theater occupancy, particularly during evening and night shows. On the international stage, strong support from overseas fans added another Rs 3 crore, pushing the global gross total to a staggering Rs 175.96 crore.

Co-starring Trisha Krishnan, the film has firmly captured the public's imagination. The story beautifully connects with audiences because it balances divine themes with deeply human struggles. The plot follows an ordinary, helpless father and daughter fighting for justice in a corrupt legal system. The emotional core peaks when a crafty lawyer challenges a descended deity, played by an aura-filled Suriya, to win a courtroom battle without using any magical powers.

The Tamil version remains the primary driver of this commercial success, contributing the majority of the revenue, while the Telugu-dubbed version also pulled in solid numbers.

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